

## **The Positive Impact of Oil Exploration and Exploitation Activities of Multinational Oil Corporations (MNOCs) on the Inhabitants of Ilaje Local Government Area of Ondo State**

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### **Abstract**

The activities of Multinational Oil Corporations centres mainly on oil exploration and exploitation. Oil exploration and exploitation in Nigeria is solely carried out in the Niger Delta region which Ilaje Local Government Area of Ondo State is part of. The oil exploration and exploitation activities of multinational oil corporations have impacted both negatively and positively on the socio-economic and political life of the people of Ilaje Local Government Area of Ondo State. This paper examines the positive impact of multinational oil corporation's activities in Nigeria. The main focus is on the positive impact of oil exploration and exploitation activities of multinational oil corporations on the socio-economic and political wellbeing of the people of Ilaje Local Government Area of Ondo State. Though much have been done by scholars about oil exploration and exploitation activities in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria, not much has been done in the study area taken into cognizance the positive socio-economic and political impact of oil exploration and exploitation activities by multinational oil corporations. It is the only local government area in the entire southwest geopolitical zone where oil exploration and exploitation activities is being carried out. The research design adopted is the historical research design. The study used qualitative research method which involve the use of both primary and secondary sources of information. The primary sources include both interview and observation. The semi-structured interview schedule was used to elicit information for the study. The study revealed that oil exploration and exploitation activities of multinational oil corporations impacted positively on the people of Ilaje Local Government Area of Ondo State.

**Keywords:** Multinational Oil Corporations, Niger Delta Development Commission, Oil Exploration, Oil Exploitation, Oil Minerals Producing Areas Development Commission.

### **Introduction**

Nigeria is recognized as a country with the most known reserves of petroleum and gas in Africa (Nwosu, 2016). Since 1970s, Nigeria's rise to the position of prominence in the international arena could be ascribed to the enormous revenues accruing to the country from oil exploration and exploitation activities carried out by Multinational Oil Corporations (MNOCs), compared to agriculture which once kept the country's economy afloat prior to the discovery of oil (Afolabi, 2015). With the advent of oil discovery, agriculture which was once the economic mainstay of the country was relegated to the background (Adigun, 2015). Interestingly, it is not a contestable fact that this giant stride is accomplished as a result of the availability of crude oil deposit in the nine

oil producing states that make up the Niger Delta region, including Ilaje Local Government Area of Ondo State.

Oil has become a sensitive factor in defining the politics and diplomacy of states (Uche, 2014). This fact is reiterated in a public lecture entitled "Oil in World Politics" delivered by a former Secretary of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), late Chief M.O. Feyide, when he asserted that "all over the world, the lives of people are affected and the destiny of nations are determined by the result of oil exploration and exploitation activities of multinational oil corporations" (Nwosu, 2016).

Oil plays a pivotal role in sustaining industrialized countries and equally provides the revenue needed by oil exporting countries to carry out their multifarious socio-economic and political development plans both at home and abroad. The pace at which the world progresses would have been slowed down and life itself would not have been comfortable if not for the advent of oil exploration and exploitation activities of multinational oil corporations (Afolabi, 2015). That is why oil has become a sensitive issue which governments of various countries do not joke with, an important ingredient of their politics, and also a crucial factor in their political and diplomatic strategies.

However, for the past five decades, Ilaje Local Government Area of Ondo State had been experiencing increased activities of Multinational Oil Corporations (MNOCs) in the area of oil exploration and exploitation (Ebimomi, 2013). Oil exploration simply means sourcing for, in order to locate or discover where oil is naturally deposited especially in a quantity which can be meaningfully and commercially exploited. On the other hand, oil exploitation involves the actual extraction through drilling of the explored or discovered reservoir of oil and gas (Akinloye, 2015). The offshore oil exploration started in Meren, in Ilaje Local Government Area of Ondo State in November, 1968 (Ebisemiju, 2016). This is what is known today as Meren Oil Field. An oil field refers to a region having many oil wells where crude oil is being extracted from beneath the ground (Collins, 2017). This is due to the fact that oil reservoirs usually extend over a large area, possibly several hundred kilometres across. Therefore, full exploitation requires multiple wells scattered across the region (Akinloye, 2015).

Since 1968, other oil fields have been developed for oil production in Ilaje Local Government Area of Ondo State. For instance, Parabe and Malu Oil Fields came into existence in February and March, 1971 respectively. Esan Oil Field was developed in February, 1972. Opolo and Ewan Oil fields commenced production in March, 1977, while Opoakaba flow station was flagged off on the 16<sup>th</sup> October, 1993, by the then Governor of Ondo State, Evangelist Bamidele Olumiluwa (Ebisemiju, 2016). The dotted oil wells are connected with pipes to central fields referred to as flow stations for further transportation to a larger designated plants such as the refinery for final processing, distribution and utilization by the final consumers (Collins, 2017).

The oil exploration and exploitation activities of Multinational Oil Corporations (MNOCs) operating in Ilaje Local Government Area of Ondo State, have produced myriad of positive impact on the socio-economic and political wellbeing of the local communities hosting their operations (Iyaomiye, 2017).

## **Description of the Study Area**

Ilaje is a sub-ethnic group within Yoruba race. They inhabit the Western Niger Delta and coastal area of Southern Nigeria. Ilaje Local Government Area of Ondo State lies along the Atlantic Coast of Nigeria, and it is situated 133 kilometres south of Akure, the State capital. The entire area lies between longitude 4°28' and 5°1' East of the Greenwich Meridian and latitude 5°51' and 6°21' North of the Equator (Ikuejube, 2005). It is bounded to the North by the Ikale people of Okitipupa Local Government Area of Ondo State, and to the South by the Atlantic Ocean, to the West by the Ijebu people of Ogun waterside Local Government Area of Ogun State, and to the East by the Itsekiri and the Ijaw people of Warri-West Local Government Area of Delta State (Ebisemiju, 2016).

Ilaje Local Government Area of Ondo State is made up of about two hundred small towns and villages, with the prominent ones including Igbokoda (the local government headquarters), Mahin, Ayetoro, Ugb-Nla, Atijere, Orotu, Molutehin, Ajegunle, Awoye, Odun-Igo, Ilepete, Odofado, Ojumole, Odo-Nla, Ilowo, Idiogba, Erunona, Yaye, Odun-Beku, Ugbo, Jiringho, Mogonhen, Obe-Rewoye, Obe-Adun, Apata, Obe-Nla, Bijimi, Ikorigho, Agerige, Obe-Rebimino, Yonren, Ubale-Nla, Zion-Pepe, Akata, Ubale-Kekere, Orerara, Araromi, Orioke-Iwamimo, Upare, Idi-Egben, Ogogoro, Seluwa, Kugbanre, Magbehinwa, Asumaga, Mese, Etugbo, Gbabijo, Aboto, Odun-Ogun, Ehinmore, Abe-Alala, Oke-Siri, Obi-Nehin, Seja-Oke, Odun-Ogun, Ebighan, Seja-Odo, Ogungbeje, Ibila, Legboro, Ilu-Abo, Zion-Igbokoda, Idiogba-Alagban, Fagbin, Arenegho, Odo-Ikorigho, Oretan, Orisabinone, and Zion-Oropo. The 2006 population census of the Federal Republic of Nigeria put the population of Ilaje Local Government Area of Ondo State at about 290,615 (Ebimomi, 2013). This local government is inhabited majorly by Ilaje people, a Yoruba sub-ethnic group.

Geographically, Ilajeland could be easily divided into two sections. The northern section is comparatively drier and higher in relief than the area of the swampy land of the south. Even in the lowland belt, the dark and humid surroundings are interspersed with vast stretches of dry land, a maze of Islands intersected by creeks and rivers. The coastal part of the local government area which forms about seventy percent of the total land area consists mainly of mangrove swamps and rivers, and is flooded during the rainy season.

Transportation in Ilajeland has been largely restricted to the use of canoes and powered engine boats. Ilajeland is the only oil rich local government area in the entire south-west geopolitical zone. On the whole, the Ilaje people live mostly along the Coast, and spread from the Western Niger Delta region to part of Ogun and Lagos states respectively (Iyaomolere, 2011). Most Ilaje people especially in the swamp and coastline built their houses on stilts since during the wet or rainy seasons, the whole area is usually flooded (Omoyele, 2011). The inundation which more often than not wreak appalling havoc, support fishing activities of the people (Ebisemiju, 2016).

## **A History of Oil Exploration and Exploitation Activities in Ilaje Local Government Area of Ondo State.**

Oil was first discovered in Nigeria in 1908 by the German Bitumen Corporation at Araromi, a fishing coastal community in the present Ilaje Local Government Area of Ondo State (Akinloye, 2015). Lending credence to this reality, the British Colonial Government gave Britain

and its companies the power of monopoly in the upcoming oil industry through the Nigerian Mineral Oils Ordinance No. 17 of 1914 (Collins, 2017).

This monopoly power was further entrenched with the amendment of the Ordinance in 1925, which prevented the participation of non-British companies. These remarkable pioneering efforts were disorganized as a result of the outbreak of the First World War, the concomitant global economic recession of 1929-1934, and the Second World War of 1939-1945 (Akinloye, 2015).

The British Colonial Government gave Shell-D'archy company concession to operate from its base in Owerri in 1952. After the Second World War, the company was motivated to embark on a more extensive activity in the then Eastern Region which resulted in the successful exploration in much more commercial quantity at Oloibiri in the present Bayelsa State in 1956 (Akinloye, 2015). Moving towards the west, by 1960s, multinational oil corporation activities have generated intensive momentum in the Western Niger Delta. During this period, Gulf (the progenitor of Chevron) commenced aggressive oil exploration in the Western Niger Delta, by searching for oil deposit in commercial quantity at Ijaw and Itsekiri land passing through Forcados, Escravos, and finally entered into Ilaje territory in Ondo State (Ebisemiju, 2016). Since then, several multinational oil corporations including Chevron, Exxon Mobil, Agip, Express, and other oil giants have taken over the whole of Ilajeland including Araromi (Adeniji, 2017). Currently, Ondo State ranks fifth among the nine oil producing States in Nigeria, thereby accounting for about eight percent of the total crude oil production in the country (Ebisemiju, 2016).

The Civil War that took place in Nigeria between 1967 and 1970 altered the initial federal arrangement in favour of the Federal Military Government. The resultant effect of this is that, the new arrangement arrogated to the Federal Military Government the exclusive control over mineral matters (Akinloye, 2015). At the end of the civil war, the Federal Military Government promulgated Decree No. 9 of 1971, which gave the Federal Military Government the monopoly over royalty from offshore production at the expense of the oil producing states in the country (Akinloye, 2015).

The reasons adduced for this development by the Federal Military Government was that, the line of decision was taken in order to have full control over the fund generated from this source, with the sole aim of prosecuting the postwar 3Rs policy of Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, and Reconciliation (Collins, 2017). Decree No. 9 of 1971 which excluded offshore oil producing states like Ondo and Akwa Ibom from benefiting from oil royalties, had negative impact on the financial status of the affected states (Leke, 2017).

However, the white paper of the Obasanjo/Yar'adua Federal Military Government on the Maman Nasir Boundary Commission in 1976 which affirmed Opuama and Sekelewu as part of Ondo State against the then Bendel State, gave succour to the yearnings and aspirations of Ondo State. Consequently, the Chief Adekunle Ajasin civilian government of Ondo State was greatly credited with some oil revenue allocation in 1980, due to the onshore oil production at Opuama and Sekelewu area by Shell.

In fact, the Ondo State government did not relent in its agitation for recognition as an oil producing state due to its offshore oil production, in spite of the fact that some of its offshore oil wells were credited to neighbouring Bendel State. By early 1990, the agitation of Ilaje people in

Ondo State was intensified, especially as the environmental effects of multinational oil corporation's activities could no longer be condoned by the inhabitants of the oil producing communities due to sea incursions and coastal erosion (Ebiseni, 2018). Decree No. 23 of 1992 puts an end to Decree No. 9 of 1971 which brought into existence offshore/onshore dichotomy. With the phasing out of Decree No. 9 of 1971, and the promulgation of Decree No. 23 of 1992, Ondo and Akwa Ibom States that were offshore oil producing states, were effectively and officially recognized to be part of oil producing states, and equally as members of Oil Minerals Producing Areas Development Commission (OMPADEC) (Ebietomiye, 2018).

With this new development, several multinational oil corporations which include Chevron, Exxon Mobil, Express, Conoil, Cavendish, and some of their contractors or subsidiaries which had been operating initially in Ilajeland, saw the urgent need to enter into agreement with both the Ondo State Government and the oil producing communities hosting their operations in Ilajeland (Ebisemiju, 2016).

Consequently, Chevron entered into territorial agreement in 1995, based on its onshore operations at Opuakaba, Conoil which commenced operations at Bella oil wells around 1992 only accommodated in 1995 some of the communities which host its operations. In 1998, there was fierce hostility between Chevron and Ilaje youths over the refusal of Chevron to recognize Ilaje as its host over its operations at Parabe. This violent hostility between Chevron and Ilaje youths led to the death of two Ilaje youths, which eventually led to litigation against the Chevron in the United State, its country of origin. The series of struggles carried out by the Ilaje people against Chevron, later compelled Chevron to embark on an aerial survey of its facilities in 1999. The aerial survey carried out by Chevron revealed that Chevron's operations cut across the whole Atlantic jurisdiction of Ondo State (Ogeloyinbo, 2017).

## **Research Methodology**

### **Historical Research Design**

Any researcher that has it in mind to delve into what had happened in the past for the purpose of analyzing current events, and also projecting into the future, needs to embrace and utilize historical research design for its study (Bell, 2018). This is why Akindele (2019) sees history as the study of the past by the present for future use. Historical research design entails studying, understanding, and interpreting past events (Harding, 2018).

### **Research Instrument**

The research instruments used in this study are semi-structured interview schedule, direct observation, and documentation.

### **Semi-Structured Interview**

Semi-structured interview adopted in this study contains a list of vital questions raised by the researcher as regards positive impact of oil exploration and exploitation activities of multinational oil corporations in the study area. They adequately provided answers to the interviewees.

## **Direct Observation**

Direct observation involved many visits by the researcher to the study area for the purpose of verifying the various positive impact of oil exploration and exploitation activities of multinational oil corporations.

## **Documentation**

Document refers to 'any written materials that was already in existence, which was produced for some other purpose other than the benefit of the investigator'. The written materials used mainly in this study are textbooks.

## **Result of Findings**

### **The Positive Impact of Oil Exploration and Exploitation Activities of Multinational Oil Corporations on Ilaje Local Government Area of Ondo State.**

The positive impact of oil exploration and exploitation activities of multinational oil corporation in Ilaje Local Government Area of Ondo State could be seen in the area of socio-economic and political development of the area. With the advent of multinational oil corporation, the inhabitants of the local government area experienced the creation of many indigenous associations by oil host communities which were duly recognized by multinational oil corporations. These associations were formed mainly to serve as go-between the oil host communities and multinational oil corporations in the area. These associations include; Ilaje Regional Development Council (IRDC), Ilaje Ugbo Coastal Oil Management Association (ILUCOMA), Obe Confederation, Association of Oil Producing Communities (ASCOPIC), Uproar (this is an indigenous oil association formed by the people in the study area), and AICECUM which serves as umbrella body for the under-listed indigenous oil associations such as Actual, Indigenous, Concessional, Eight United, Core, Ultimate, and Major (Ayemoro, 2018).

Inhabitants of Ilaje Local Government Area of Ondo State have benefited tremendously from multinational oil corporations operating in various oil bearing communities through these indigenous oil associations. Such benefit includes both permanent and casual employment of people from host communities. Those employed by the multinationals were far better remunerated compared to their counterparts with the same academic qualifications who were employed by federal government, state government, or local government. Not less than three thousand indigenes of the study area were employed by multinational oil corporations as both casual and permanent staff. The casual workers who possess secondary school certificate examination results received not less than ₦150,000 as their monthly salaries, as against their counterparts who are federal and state government employees who received ₦30,000. Some people from the local government area who were not given employment by multinational oil corporations equally benefited from these multinational oil corporations through the huge amount of contracts that were awarded to them by these multinational corporations. Some people also engaged in supplying the materials needed by these multinational oil corporations. In addition, multinational oil corporations operating in this local government give out scholarships on annual basis to students in primary, secondary, and tertiary institutions. These scholarships are extended to postgraduate students and more than fifty thousand students have benefited from it. Skill acquisition programmes initiated by multinational

oil corporations is another area where people feel the positive impact of these corporations. Such skill acquisition programmes include barbing, hair dressing, tailoring, joinery, welding and fabricating, electrical installation, and others. These multinational oil corporations also improved the quality of education in Ilaje Local Government Area of Ondo State by building both primary and secondary schools. These schools were fully stocked with laboratory equipment, books, chairs and tables by these oil corporations. Many health centres were also built in the local government by multinational oil corporations. Potable water was also provided by multinational oil corporations in some communities. In addition, during the Ijaw-Ilaje crisis that spanned 1998-2000, multinational oil corporations disbursed relief materials which range from clothes, food materials, money, etc to the Ilaje people who were displaced by the crisis (Ayebogbon, 2018).

Another area through which people from Ilaje Local Government Area of Ondo State feel the positive impact of multinational oil corporations is the creation of intervention agencies by both the Federal Government and the Ondo State Government. These intervention agencies were created mainly to add value to the socio-economic situations of the people in oil communities hosting the oil exploration and exploitation activities of multinational oil corporations. Some of these intervention agencies created by the Federal Government include the defunct Oil Minerals Producing Areas Development Commission (OMPADEC), and Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), while the intervention agency created by Ondo State Government is known as Ondo State Oil Producing Areas Development Commission (OSOPADEC).

The poor performance of OMPADEC could also be ascribed to the ineffectiveness of the regulatory mechanisms put in place to properly monitor its day-to-day activities. In the first three years of its establishment, OMPADEC embarked on projects worth of \$500 million, but the money was said to have been paid to contractors whose addresses could not be traced. In order to put the commission on a very sound footing, the federal military government overhauled the commission three times and replaced its Director (Opia from Delta State) with an Assistant Inspector General of Police, Alhaji Bukar Ali, from Northern Nigeria. All energy dissipated by the federal military government for the purpose of sanitizing the commission yielded no meaningful result (Afolabi, 2015). Eventually the commission was scraped in 1998.

In spite of the failure of OMPADEC to meet its aims and objectives, and the subsequent scraped of the commission by the federal government, the federal government remains undaunted in its commitment to the development of the Niger Delta region in general, and oil producing communities in particular.

The failure of OMPADEC to significantly contribute towards the development of the Niger Delta region necessitated the significant search for alternatively institutional measures culminating in the establishment of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC).

With the demise of OMPADEC, Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) Act 2000 was conceived and enacted by the Chief Olusegun Obasanjo's civilian Federal Government following the federal government initiation of a master planning process for physical and social development to achieve speedy and meaningful transformation of the Niger Delta region into a zone of equity, prosperity and tranquility. NDDC was established mainly to facilitate the development of oil producing communities (Uche, 2014).

Since its establishment, NDDC has embarked on both human and infrastructural development programmes. These programmes designed for the welfare of the youths and people of the oil producing communities include sponsorship of students abroad annually for postgraduate programmes such as Masters and Ph.D Degrees, construction of both primary and secondary schools classrooms, free distribution of chairs and tables to both primary and secondary schools, skill acquisition, computer literacy, NDDC Assisted Mass Transit Scheme, provision of electricity transformers across the whole eighteen local government areas of Ondo State, etc (Adedoyin, 2018).

The intervention agency established by the Ondo State Government is known as Ondo State Oil Producing Areas Development Commission (OSOPADEC). The availability of crude oil deposit in commercial quantity in Ilaje Local Government Area of Ondo State attracts multinational oil corporations which started carrying out oil exploration and exploitation activities in this oil rich region since 1968.

Also, the availability of crude oil deposit in commercial quantity in Ilaje Local Government Area of Ondo State accounts for why Ondo State is constitutionally recognized by the Federal Government of Nigeria as being eminently qualify for membership of Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), and by extension an oil producing state within the fiscal framework of Nigeria.

In recognition of special fiscal allocation accruing to the Ondo State Government from the federation account by virtue of crude oil deposits in Ilaje Local Government Area of Ondo State, and also because of the constant and heated agitation from the inhabitants of oil producing communities in Ondo State concerning their socio-economic and environmental situations, the Ondo State Government established the Ondo State Oil Producing Areas Development Commission (OSOPADEC). This commission was established by the law of Ondo State under the governorship of Chief Adebayo Adefarati in 2001, as an intervention agency saddled with the responsibility to catering specifically for human and infrastructural development of the oil producing areas of the state (Adolo, 2018).

OSOPADEC was established mainly to bring about positive development in the oil producing communities of the state, with the receipt and autonomous administration of the forty percent of the thirteen percent oil derivation fund accruing to the Ondo State Government from the federation account. The constitution that established OSOPADEC stated unequivocally that the occupations of the positions of both the Executive Chairman and the Secretary of the commission who are on full-time basis should be the exclusive rights of the indigenes of oil producing areas of the state.

The exploration and exploitation of crude oil by multinational oil corporation in the Niger Delta States brings additional income on a monthly basis to the nine states that make up the Niger Delta region, apart from the statutory allocation from the federation account to these states. This additional income accruing to these states on a monthly basis from the federal purse is known as thirteen percent oil derivation.

OSOPADEC is an intervention agency established by the Ondo State Government mainly to manage the forty percent of the thirteen percent of the oil derivation which Ondo State Government

gets on monthly basis from the federation account. The forty percent of the thirteen percent of the oil derivation which the state gets from the federation account is allocated mainly to the oil producing areas of the state. The forty percent allocated to oil producing areas of the state is being managed by OSOPADEC for the purpose of the human and infrastructural development of the oil producing areas of the state (Malumi, 2018).

Like the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), most of OSOPADEC's interventions are in the area of social and economic development of the oil producing communities, such as health services delivery, construction of roads, electrification, water supply, housing facilities, construction of wooden jetties, construction of walkways, construction of schools, classrooms and staff quarters. OSOPADEC also gives yearly bursary and scholarship awards to students in tertiary institutions who hail from the oil producing areas. Grants and facilities such as, laboratory equipment, computer and generating sets, were also donated to secondary schools in the oil producing areas.

OSOPADEC has also provided succour to the people living in the oil producing areas by alleviating the problems associated with health services delivery in the oil producing areas by constructing forty seven modern health centres and staff quarters in strategic locations in the oil producing areas mainly to put an end to the risk and deadly experience of moving the sick over a distance of fifty kilometres for medical attention at the local government headquarters at Igbokoda.

OSOPADEC has embarked on extensive preventive medical services such as, eye screening, donation of eye glasses, hypertension screening and treatment, and several preliminary medical investigations such as diabetics and cancer. OSOPADEC has also collaborated with the Ondo State Government in facilitating mass devouring exercise, as a way of eradicating diseases in the commission's mandate areas. The various programmes designed for the health benefits of the people residing in the oil producing communities show that OSOPADEC places a high priority on the health of the people.

Moreover, OSOPADEC has recorded laudable achievement in its contribution towards the improvement of education in the oil producing areas. The commission has made visible and tremendous progress in the area of capacity building and infrastructural development in the sphere of education. According to Mr. Wale Monehin, the commission has completed the building of fifty-one blocks of classrooms in numerous oil producing communities, and thirty five blocks of staff quarters. OSOPADEC also embarked on the provision of education enhancement scheme such as funding of schools, quiz competitions and debates, provision of running grants to both primary and secondary schools, purchasing of textbooks for schools, funding of sporting activities, and the provision of financial assistance through scholarships and bursary scheme to students in tertiary institutions who are indigenes of oil producing communities. OSOPADEC gives ₦40,000 to university undergraduates, students in polytechnics, students in colleges of education, students of school of health technologies, ₦100,000 to master students, and ₦150,000 to Ph.D students on a yearly basis (Monehin, 2018).

In addition, in the area of local empowerment programmes, OSOPADEC has extended its support to aquaculture development and artisanal fishing support scheme through the provision of more than three hundred outboard engines and boats, granting of loans to fishermen, and training in fish pond cultivation were equally provided. Employment opportunities were provided for more

than two thousand indigenes of the oil producing areas in the commission, and a reasonable number of youths of the oil producing communities were sent to the Petroleum Training Institute (PTI) at Warri, Delta State, on apprenticeship to acquire various skills, ranging from plumbing, and pipe-fitting, welding, carpentry to joinery. OSOPADEC also targets barbing, hairdressing, and sport development (Ikuemola, 2018).

## Conclusion

Base on the foregoing, Ilaje Local Government Area of Ondo State is the only local government in the entire southwest geopolitical where oil exploration and exploitation activities of multinational oil corporation is being carried out. Due to the presence of crude oil deposit in commercial quantity, Ondo State becomes one of the nine oil producing state in the Niger Delta region. Since the advent of multinational oil corporations in Ilaje Local Government Area of Ondo State, the inhabitants of the local government has been enjoying positive turnaround in their human existence which ranges from health services delivery, construction of roads, electrifications, construction of walkways, awards of bursary and scholarships to students from primary schools to tertiary institutions, etc.

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