



“Extractive and mining activities continue to impact the lives and livelihoods of people living in rural communities across Nigeria and Africa” - Kentebe Ebiaridor

Media Awareness and Justice Initiative



June 2020 Newsletter

The Coal Impact - Ankpa Local Government Area, Kogi State, Nigeria

Ankpa Local Government Area (LGA), Kogi State, Nigeria, is part of a host of extractive local government areas in Nigeria suffering from the “**Resource Curse**”. People living in the rural communities covered by this local government area continue to suffer huge environmental, livelihood and health impacts of industrial and artisanal coal mining activities.

Series of reports and findings from this local government area show that three (3) active coal mining companies namely **DANGOTE, ITA ZUMA 828 Coal Limited, and KOYLA, NORDIC**, continue to practice coal mining in a way that totally disregards communal health, environmental sustainability and community livelihood.

MAJI has also identified that these companies do not adhere to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) documents, hence undermining the overall impacts of coal extractions on the environment, lives and livelihood of the communities within the LGA.



These mining activities have resulted in polluted air, erosion, water poisoning due to discharge of toxic waste into water sources, environmental degradation and increased loss of livelihood – Okaba District head, Kogi State, Nigeria.



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Engaging to Develop inclusive and Sustainable Strategies

In June 2020, with the support of **Global Greengrants Funds (GGF)**, the Media Awareness and Justice Initiative (MAJI) carried out interactive visits to five (5) impacted mining communities (Odagbo, Okaba, Onupi, Okobo and Ofano) located in Ankpa Local government area. Kogi state, Nigeria



MAJI initiated an interactive discussion session that engaged community leaders, civil society representatives and youth groups from the 5 mining communities in Ankpa local government area to discuss key challenges facing their communities and identify necessary steps to stop the indiscriminate pollution of community environment and livelihoods.

World Environment Day 2020 - June 5th, 2020

“Time for Nature”

On June 5th 2020, The Media Awareness and Justice Initiative (MAJI) released a press briefing in commemoration of **The World Environment Day 2020**, with the theme “**Time for Nature**”.

The briefing looked to add MAJI’s call to the voice of numerous stakeholders, groups and civil society organizations across the world to start evolving key strategies to ensure that the development of key infrastructures for the sustainability of the Earth and human development are achieved.

Via this press release, the Media Awareness and Justice Initiative called on government, companies and people living in extractive rural and urban communities to ensure increased interactions, collaborations and the adoption of best practices which will be the platform on which key strategies for the sustainability of the Earth can be built. To this end, MAJI called on all stakeholders to

1. Ensure that crude oil spills and mining activities that continue to destroy our environment must be stopped.
2. Government regulatory agencies should increase its interactive component, and ensure that companies are made to abide by set out environmental guidelines and policies. This would be the bedrock for the sustainability of our Environment.
3. Traditional rulers and community leaders have to ensure that artisanal mining and refining activities within their respective communities are stopped.
4. At best, CRUDE OIL EXPLORATION AND COAL MINING be abolished and other methods of green energy generation be adopted

The Media Awareness and Justice Initiative continues to explore innovative ways to seek for environmental justice and ensure that companies and government regulators adhere to environmental policies. To engage a wide spectrum of people, MAJI also develops short form audiovisual content for online and offline campaigns, awareness and sensitization programs.

In continuation of our awareness and sensitization drive, the Media Awareness and Justice Initiative (MAJI) have continued to use social and mass media platforms such as **Facebook, Twitter, Radio and Television stations** to engage with citizens and key stakeholders.

Via our Radio and Television interactive talk shows and we have covered three (3) core states (Rivers, Bayelsa, and Cross River) of the Niger Delta region of Nigeria, with a listening spread of over 500, 000 people. The radio and television talk shows are aired in English and locally spoken “Pidgin English” languages.

The Media Awareness and Justice Initiative will continue to engage with impacted communities to discuss the present contexts of coal mining and crude oil extraction. This will be key in strengthen the campaign to **Stop Dirty Energy**

MAJI MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS



Media Engagement - Radio

We carried out interactive radio discussions on radio stations with a broadcast spread across Rivers, Bayelsa and Cross-Rivers states in Nigeria



Media Engagement - Television

MAJI leveraged on the platform of **National Television Authority (NTA)** to discuss prevailing environmental challenges, and its impacts, pre and post the Covid-19 Pandemic



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