



FINAL REPORT ON THE PROJECT  
**IBEJU LEKKI RESIDENTS  
AND DANGOTE REFINERY,  
BUILDING RESISTANCE AND  
RIGHTS AGITATIONS.**

Submitted by: Corporate Accountability and Public Participation Africa (CAPPA)

To: Oil Watch Africa.

**Project Rationale:** Extractivism as the bedrock for development has failed in Nigeria. After the discovery of oil in Oloibiri, present-day Bayelsa State in 1956, Nigerians especially those from the Niger Delta are still within the claws of poverty. Reckless exploitation of resources has caused massive socioeconomic difficulties for the people as oil exploration has not translated to wealth for people in the oil-bearing communities, nor has it improved their environment or living conditions. Capitalist ideals are being advanced, and this is broadening the divide between the rich and poor, deepening conflicts on land and furthering militarism and authoritarianism.

With the commercial exploration of oil in Nigeria which began in 1973 locals now battle corporate domination and social dependency. Unfortunately, the Dangote Refinery in Lagos, about 450 kilometres from the Niger Delta has sparked fear among the locals that oil spills, soot pollution and human rights abuses perpetrated by International Oil Companies (IOCs) in the Niger Delta is likely to be replicated in Lagos. This fear is now a reality by the people of Ibeju Lekki in Lekki Local Government Area of Lagos State who are hosts to the Dangote Refinery, adjudged the largest oil refinery in the world. When completed, the refinery is expected to have the capacity to process about 650,000 barrels per day of crude oil. The refinery covers a land area of approximately 2,635 hectares, which is about six times the size of Victoria Island nearby. The pipeline infrastructure of the refinery is the largest anywhere in the world, with 1,100 kilometres to handle 3 billion Standard Cubic Feet of gas per day. The refinery also has a 435MW power plant.

Preliminary engagements that CAPPa has had with some of the communities in Ibeju Lekki indicate that the locals have started observing changes in their environment especially the impacts of the project on fishing which is their typical livelihood. Over 500,000 persons might be forced to vacate their lands and abandon their livelihoods as the refinery project unleashes a new culture in their land. With the anticipated take-off of the refining from December 2022, the fears heighten. CAPPa's engagement with the Ibeju Lekki community exposes the need to build their capacity to advocate for the right to self-determined development and other substantive community rights. The community needs support on engagement strategies and the principles of civil resistance, free, prior, and informed consent. All these are missing in the current arrangement.

**Project Description:** This project will build the capacity of community folks in Ibeju Lekki on advocacy strategies, systems engagement and how to leverage the media to amplify their plight and demands for impact. The residents will be abreast of their fundamental human rights as enshrined in the Nigerian constitution, the obligations of corporate entities to the protection of the people and their environment of operation as well as the mandate of government to provide policy framework to curb excesses of corporations.

**Context and Policy Environment for the Proposed Project:** The operations of the oil industry are governed by the Petroleum Industry Act 2021 which is designed to address extractivism and oil exploration. The Act sets the standard for natural resource management in Nigeria and provides mainly for the existence of a commercially oriented and profit-driven national petroleum company, the codification of transparency, good governance, and accountability in the administration of the petroleum resources of Nigeria without detailed consideration for environmental remediation, loss and damage reparation, social and economic development of host communities. This lacuna allows corporations to act with impunity.

**Deliverables:** Against the imminent take-off of the Dangote refinery that seats on approximately 2.635 hectares of land and the corresponding social and environmental consequences anticipated and already visible, CAPPa assessed the impacts of the project on residents and built their capacities on rights agitation, priority shaping and system engagements. Claims of alteration of natural habitat, and disruption of farmlands and human settlements shared by the residents were validated by CAPPa. CAPPa amplified the shared concerns and aided the affected communities in their quest for reparation and commiserate compensation.

### **Activities Implemented:**

1. **On-the-spot assessment/situational analysis:** The CAPPa Team comprised of



Philip Jakpor, Olamide Martins and Lekan Fagbenro made an on-the-spot assessment visit to Okeiyatan, Magbonsegun and OkeseGUN on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023. The visit allowed the CAPPa Team to interact with the residents to validate the reported impacts the Dangote refinery is having on them. A focus group discussion that had representatives of the women's group, youth, and community development committees and other members of the

community was held in front of the palace of the traditional rulers. Opening the conversation, the community's Islamic leader Chief Jamia said they are beginning to witness an abnormal change in their livelihood as fish farming, agricultural production, and small-scale business often common with their wives and young ladies are no more. He said the young boys in the community now roam the street aimlessly because they lack meaningful employment. Only a few of their youths are given

conditional employment in the Dangote Ammonia Fertiliser Processing Unit where they are either underpaid or made vulnerable to arbitrary termination of their contractual appointments.

Corroborating the claims of the Islamic leader, Mrs Lawal said since the forceful takeover of their land and water bodies, fishing is already affected due to the heavy



infrastructures constructed along the seashores and the disruption they caused on natural habitats and humans as well. According to her, communal lifestyle and recreational activities often reserved for sea sides are no more as Dangote machinery heavily manned by security operatives have banned such thereby affecting local commerce and business opportunities. Similarly, Mrs Oseni another woman from the community said it appears Dangote Refinery has affected their healthy

water as both the taste and colour have changed but since the community is limited in options, they continue the use of it. Also, Segun, a youth in his late twenties said strangers have taken over the Dangote Refinery as 80% of the workers are from the North while indigenes struggle for the remaining 20% only in the Ammonia dependent fertilizer-producing factory that is reported to have already killed five persons in less than two months. He confirmed a lack of care for indigent unskilled workers and the emphasis on profit over and above humanity. Others accused Dangote of dividing the communities along the lines of interests and agitations and often through temporal and shadow interventions continued to deceive the people.

### **Other Anonymous Testimonies:**

- *During the administration of Fashola, we heard there was supposed to be an agreement between the people of Ibeju Lekki and Dangote. Still, because we trusted Fashola to represent the interest of the people, we allowed him to lead the process with his saboteurs who only focused on the gains of the corporation. We were not aware of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the community people and Dangote talk less about the content.*
- *Dangote claims to be giving scholarships to the people of Ibeju Lekki but in the actual sense what the company is giving out is a bursary. The selection process*

*is another kettle of fish, as it appears political, exclusive, and limited only to students in certain classes (sciences) and not Arts and commercials.*

- *For more than eleven years, we have not seen electricity. How can one reconcile that communities close to Dangote Refinery have been without electricity for that long? Now our businesses and commerce are down. Ironically, there is 24/4 power in the refinery because they are on an Independent Power Plant (IPP).*
- *Some of the contractors do take advantage of our young unemployed ladies with the promise of fixing them up in the refinery but that has not always been the case.*
- *We are typically fisherfolks in this community. Unfortunately, since the construction work on the refinery started, we have continued to record low fish catch because the fish have swarmed to safer waters. Because of this, we must go further into the Atlantic Ocean to catch anything. It is getting more dangerous to even do that because our boats cannot withstand the strong waves of the sea.*
- *There is no benefit of this refinery for us because the available jobs are given to strangers especially people from the Niger Delta and the east. The few of our people given jobs are given menial jobs.*

Thereafter, the CAPPa Team toured the communities particularly areas bordering the encroaching waters. Right there, coastal invasion, ocean surge and extreme temperature were felt, thereby confirming the level of alteration caused by the activities of the profit-focused Big Polluters (Dangote Refinery).

**Community Dialogue:** Having gathered the testimonies of impacts, neglect and abandonment shared and the joint call of the people for justice, CAPPa on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August 2023 organised a one-day dialogue session with the residents. Traditional rulers and senior chiefs from the three most affected communities in Lekki; namely Okesegun, Magbonsegun and Okeiyanta, others are the representatives of citizens groups drawn from youth and women groups, cultural and faith leaders, and members of the community development committee, interested civil society organizations and the media. The dialogue focused on



priority shaping, impact profiling, case-making, and strategies for systems engagement leveraging the instrumentalities of the media.

The duo of Olamide Martins and Philip Jakpor of CAPPa anchored the event. The dialogue centred on claims validation, engagements history between the corporation and community (if any), commitments and deliverables, roles, and advances of the community development committees (CDC) and the opportunities in the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA). Though exist, community residents said the relationship that exists between them, and the Dangote Refinery could best be described as parasitic.

A youth leader said his community (OkeseGUN) affected by the Dangote Refinery now lives in the past as natural rights are now being reduced to privileges because of the actions of a few. The locals said they are not aware of any Environmental and Social Impact Assessment carried out and that the details were not clear to them or convening of their inputs. They claimed that perhaps foreign and faceless elements and not the public are the ones advancing the course. Most of the community leaders who confided in the team said they would only do so in anonymity for fear of sanctions by the state government which is only interested in profits over untoward impacts. According to one of the youths, "Representatives of the state were there when the signing of those agreements took place. Another traditional ruler who also did not want his name mentioned, revealed that the overbearing posture of the state government hampered their ability to negotiate with the refinery management since top government officials were interested in personal benefits from the project.

**Media Leverage:** CAPPa leveraged the reach and coverage of the media to amplify the shared concerns of the engaged residents. Prominent media houses including Tribune, EnvironNews, The Trumpet, Vanguard, The Voice, and others were invited to the dialogue. The journalists further interrogated the residents on the state of the community and the impacts corporate social responsibilities being advanced by Dangote Group has had on them if any.

Find the link to the press releases below.

- <https://www.environnewsnigeria.com/dangote-refinery-communities-complain-of-neglect-non-compensation-for-acquired-land/>
- <https://tribuneonline.ng.com/dangote-refinery-affected-communities-in-ibeju-lekki-express-worry-over-environmental-conditions/>
- <https://thetrumpet.ng/ibeju-lekki-communities-and-dangote-industries/>
- <https://thepressngr.com/dangote-refinery-host-residents-raise-alarm-as-refinery-affects-livelihood-says-dangote-fails-to-fulfill-promises/>

## General Observations and Findings

- i. The natural environment (floral and fauna) of Ibeju Lekki is badly affected by the presence and operation of the Dangote refinery and the plights of affected residents are yet to be heard.
- ii. Where it exists, agreements between communities and the corporation are one-sided, exclusive, and lacking citizens' input, demands and expectations.
- iii. Serious reparations and damage control are technically reduced to corporate social responsibilities entirely at the will of the polluters.
- iv. There is a massive disconnect between corporate interventions and people's expectations.
- v. The people are left behind, harmful corporation flourishes and the government looks away.

**Report Dissemination Plan:** CAPPa with the selected members of the community development committee (CDC) to disseminate the pact/demand jointly developed by the residents to the Local government chairman of Ibeju Lekki LGA and send copies to the Lagos State House of Assembly and the State Ministry of Environment for urgent action. Haven observed the deliberate disregard for the provision of the Petroleum Industry Act which mandates 3% to the Host Community, CAPPa ensured that the agitation for this is structured and accommodated early to the demand of the people must not be exclusive of their interests.

**Planned Follow-Up Action:** CAPPa to continue to work with the residents of the over ten communities in Ibeju Lekki, particularly with the Community Development Committee in their engagement with the management of Dangote Refinery. We are not unaware of the tactics of the management of the corporation to water down the impacts of its operations as shown by its selective dealings with the community heads and a few others, CAPPa will continue to monitor the impacts of the operations of Dangote refinery on the locals and further strengthen community power to resist, reject and demand justice against any infraction.

**Recommendations:** Following the dialogue held with the affected community members, the following recommendations were made:

- i. That the provisions of the Petroleum Industry Act 2021 mandating Oil companies to be committed to the development of the Host Community be fully implemented.
- ii. Dangote makes public the details of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report it reported to have carried out before the commencement of the refinery.
- iii. That Lagos and Federal Governments as a matter of urgency and public interest review the existing Memorandum of Understanding between the Dangote Refinery and the Ibeju Lekki Community.

- iv. The management of Dangote Refinery must commit itself to sustained dialogue with the people in determining and implementing its Corporate Social Responsibility Projects.
- v. It is within the rights of the people of Ibeju Lekki to be represented by a lawyer and an estate/development valuer in their engagements and negotiations with Dangote to ensure that only compensations that commiserate with damages are paid.
- vi. The Lagos State Government should extend its development to the Ibeju Lekki via social amenities and consideration for basic amenities.

### **MORE PICTURES:**

- i. Community Visit:  
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1AC2dcDMOJTAPxli5eQSzPsg31cxde1dl>
- ii. Community Dialogue:  
[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1dWHlllocZ\\_sSkYOdM7qizjx3HvsmrVa9](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1dWHlllocZ_sSkYOdM7qizjx3HvsmrVa9)

### **About Corporate Accountability and Public Participation Africa**

Corporate Accountability and Public Participation Africa (CAPPA) is a pan-African nongovernmental organization that works to advance human rights, challenge corporate abuse of natural resources, and build community power for inclusive development and participatory governance. CAPPA is passionately devoted to nurturing movements of African communities and a new generation of Afro-leaders working shoulder to shoulder to demand democratic management and governance of natural resources, accountability from power structures, inclusive participation in development processes, and an end to all forms of corporate and state abuses.

CAPPA envisions a continent whose development path is designed, modelled, and executed by Africans – respecting and guaranteeing human rights, enabling social justice, and ensuring human existence in harmony with the environment. CAPPA works on five thematic areas. They include Public Services, Environment and Extractives, Democracy Outreach, Public health, and Climate Change.

**Read more about CAPPA here:** <https://cappaafrica.org/>