

# Nigerian Government Agency NDDC Signs Performance Bond To Facilitate Regional Master Plan

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[/EINPresswire.com/](https://EINPresswire.com/) -- The Niger Delta Development Commission, NDDC, an agency established with the sole mandate of developing the oil-rich Niger Delta region of Nigeria said it has signed a Performance Bond with the Ministry of Niger Delta Development as part of its commitment to achieving the objectives of Nigeria President Bola Tinubu administration's Renewed Hope Agenda.

The Director, Corporate Affairs of the agency, Pius Ughakpoteni in a press statement, said the Minister of the Niger Delta Development, Engr. Abubakar Momoh, supervised the signing ceremony during a two-day NDDC Board and Management Retreat at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, Ikot Ekpene, Akwa Ibom State, the Southern part of Nigeria.



From left to right: the Minister of Niger Delta Development, Engr. Abubakar Momoh; the Chairman NDDC Board, Mr. Chiedu Ebie, signing the Performance Bond at the center; and the Permanent Secretary, Dr. Shuaib Belgore, are pictured during the Two-Day Board

The statement said the Chairman of the NDDC Governing Board, Mr. Chiedu Ebie, the Managing Director, Dr Samuel Ogbuku and the Executive Directors signed on behalf of the agency.

According to the statement; the Minister mandated the NDDC to review and update the Niger Delta Regional Developmental Master Plan, noting that it was a crucial framework for guiding and implementing development initiatives in the Niger Delta, as there can be no sustainable development without developmental plans.

Momoh challenged the NDDC Board and Management to change the narrative around the Commission, stating that President Tinubu's administration had established a template to

measure performance of all agencies of government.

He said that the performance bond signed by the NDDC Board and Management had deliverables that were associated with the eight presidential priorities of the Federal Government.

The Minister charged the Board to focus on completing ongoing projects across the nine states of the Niger Delta region. He also urged the Board to offset the Commission's debt to its contractors, especially the local contractors, whose bills were less than 30 million naira.

The statement noted that a communique was issued at the end of the NDDC Board and Management Retreat and that the communique underlined the need for strategic communication of the value added by the NDDC to its stakeholders, to change the negative perception about the Commission.

The Communique reads in parts;

The frequent changes in the Governing Board of the Commission have largely accounted for the challenges in project execution and delivery in the development of the region. Thus, the Federal Government should ensure that the current Board completes its tenure and that there is continuity in succeeding Boards to ensure sustainability of the Commission's projects."

"From the presentations, group discussions at the conference, it was agreed that there should be "proper synergy, collaboration and coordinating framework between the Ministry of Niger Delta Development, State Governments in the regions, the NDDC and development partners.

The communique stated further: "Procurement is at the heart of governance and one of the government activities most vulnerable to corruption. Therefore, the Board and Management of the NDDC must effectively discharge their responsibility to manage the Procurement process involving all stakeholders, without sacrificing the core objectives as provided under the Procurement Act.

The participants stressed the need for the urgent release of all outstanding statutory contributions of the Federal Government to the NDDC fund, as the non-release of these funds has significantly hampered the ability of the Commission to deliver on its mandate.

They observed that the peculiar construction window of the Niger Delta region made it imperative for the NDDC to get some form of financial autonomy outside the Treasury Single Account (TSA) regime. This is as part of the process of getting the Commission take advantage of traditional credit sources in completing its projects and deliver real impact and sustainable development to the long-suffering people of the region.

It was further resolved that the Commission should establish clear, measurable, achievable, relevant and time bound (SMART) goals that the Commission will demonstrably commit to and

deliver upon, fostering increased public trust, adding: "There is need for the development of key governance policies and procedures to promote clarity of roles and minimize discord on the Board, as well as defined reporting framework covering key stakeholders and transparency."

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