

# **AMANGE FOUNDATION**

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## **AF OVERVIEW**

**Amange Foundation, AF** is a non profit, non government and non faith-based Community-based Organization in Bayelsa East, principally focused on bringing peace and socio-economic wellness into the Niger Delta region. The initiative was conceived in 2002 by a philanthropic Nigerian public officer, **Sen. Nimi Barigha-Amange** who was also then in private business.

The idea was the realisation of Sen. Amange's dream of a better future for the indigent Niger Delta youths and families, having experienced poverty – where parents could not afford his education fees beyond primary school. Thus Amange Foundation, AF is today the crystallization of that dream. Consequently to fulfill the vision of a better future, Amange Foundation – an initiative of Sen. Amange, introduced some projects chiefly focused on the indigent and vulnerable youths, women and communities.

## AF HISTORY

The history of the Foundation dates back to 2002, when the idea of **Rediscover Education Scheme, RES** was conceived by a noble Nigerian **Chief Nimi Barigha-Amange**.

Rediscover Education Scheme was introduced by Sen. Nimi Barigha-Amange (a private business owner and a former employee of Elf Petroleum) who envisioned that the solution to the prevalent poverty and crime is good education. In this project, Sen. Nimi Barigha-Amange challenged the phenomenon of mass illiteracy through the two sub-projects of the scheme, namely: **Remedial Education Project, REP** and **Scholar's Aid Project, SAP**.

In 2003, in the wake of the regional unrest, Sen. Nimi Barigha-Amange spearheaded another move in Niger Delta conflict resolution through the **Niger Delta Peace Initiative** scheme. This scheme seeks to bridge the communication gap between government/oil companies and the aggrieved Niger-Delta people. The works of this initiative include peace negotiations, peace projects and peace publications. A book by Amange foundation titled "Road to Peace in the Niger Delta" is due to be published early 2009.

In addition, Sen. Nimi Barigha-Amange in 2006, perceived a close relationship between Niger Delta youth restiveness and joblessness. This insight led him to inaugurate another project – **Micro-business Assist, MBA**. This scheme was set up to help alleviate poverty via the provision of gainful employment for the Niger Delta people. This was accomplished by initiating a micro-credit revolving scheme and also by the establishment of cooperative groups among youths and women.

Finally, in 2008, the above-named projects (including **the Widows' Purse, the Mouthpiece** and **Mobile Health Project**) were registered under a single management body – the Amange Foundation. Thus Amange Foundation was incorporated at the Corporate Affairs Commission, CAC the same year - 2008.

# **AF CORPORATE IDENTITY**

## **Vision Statement:**

To meet and exceed our commitment of selfless service to the Niger Delta people through our 6 core services; thus becoming the foremost peace-oriented community-based organization (CBO) within Bayelsa State and the Niger Delta sub-region at large.

## **Mission Statement:**

To meet the Niger Delta people's needs, often overlooked or inadequately attended to, through leadership, creative solutions, strategic alliances and representative legislations; thus, fulfilling the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

## **Core Principles:**

Integrity, Leadership, Creativity, Commitment, Team spirit.

## **Philosophy/Slogan:**

Our way up is down – service.

## **Values and Strategies:**

Our guiding principle/values and strategies are;

- We lead, others follow (leadership)
- We think “out-of-the –box”, creative in problem solving (Creativity)
- We exemplify integrity, accountable to all stakeholders (Integrity and Accountability)
- We keep to the task till completed. (Commitment and Hardwork)
- We work as team in meeting needs (Team Spirit).

## AF OUTREACH

### Target Group:

- Niger Delta Youths.
- Indigent widows and women.
- Water-locked communities.
- Unemployed youths
- Militant Youth Groups.
- Government policy makers.

### Geographical Spread:

#### *Niger Delta.*

Our Peace Advocacy outfit, Niger Delta Peace Initiative, comprehensively covers the entire Niger Delta.

#### *Bayelsa East.*

However, the rest of our developmental projects/schemes focus on Bayelsa East – Ogbia, Nembe and Brass local government areas.

## **AF PROJECTS AND SERVICES**

### **REDISCOVER EDUCATION SCHEME, RES**

This scheme is an education/literacy campaign project of Amange Foundation initiated **in 2002**. Sen. Nimi Barigha-Amange, the founder and chairman board of trustees of Amange Foundation, believes good education will give the needed future to the deprived Niger Deltans. This will subsequently reduce tension and restiveness in the sub-region. Thus, this idea is further sub-divided into two, namely:

#### **A Remedial Education Project, REP.**

This project focuses on restoring the education hope of school quits within Niger Delta. The project majors in the campaign for education advancement of Niger Delta youths from Secondary to tertiary institutions. The campaign includes the free registration of WAEC, NECO and JAMB examination fees; free distribution of JAMB examination preparatory materials, etc.

#### **B Scholar's Aid Project, SAP.**

This project encompasses all aids given to students in tertiary institutions and secondary schools. This assists includes students' scholarship, students' financial grants, supply of education materials, etc.

### **NIGER DELTA PEACE INITIATIVE, NDPI**

The board members have an inside understanding and intelligence on the varied plight, fears and opinions of the Niger Delta people, the federal government and private corporate bodies. This gives Amange foundation the particular leverage in mediating on some of the most conflicting issues within the Niger Delta.

Consequently, Niger Delta Peace Initiative was established **in 2003** as an arm of Amange foundation that focuses on mediating, maintaining and promoting peace and peaceful co-existence within the Niger Delta sub-region. The activities of the initiative encompass and consist of peace publications, peace negotiations, peace projects and peace campaigns.

### **MICRO-BUSINESS ASSIST, MBA**

This scheme comprises all economic support given to Niger Delta people. However, this scheme principally focuses on two different groups - youths and women empowerment. Thus the two sub-divisions of the scheme are:

**A. Women Economic Support Project, WESP.**

The purpose of the scheme is to help indigent women (esp. widows) the villages by creating an easily accessible micro-credit facility within their cooperative groups. This project was flagged off **in 2006** by Mrs. Patience Goodluck Jonathan, the wife of Gov. Goodluck Jonathan (the present Nigeria's Vice President). About 200 women received a soft loan of N50,000.00 each in a revolving micro-credit scheme. However, presently over 430 women have benefited from this soft loan.

**B Youth Economic Empowerment Project, YEPP.**

This project helps the youths find a worthwhile (profitable) trade. This scheme was initiated because of the high rate of militancy and other social vices among the unemployed youths. Consequently, this project has established and sponsored at least 7 cooperative groups of 25 youths each; and also supported over 45 individual credible business proposals.

## **MOBILE HEALTH PROJECT**

This project is mobile health-care delivery via mobile clinic. This seeks to improve basic health delivery system in water-locked regions of Bayelsa through this temporary/emergency solution. This scheme rides on the use of mobile medical ship clinic (with shallow draft) which can easily negotiate shallow waters in the delivery of medical aids to the people of the Niger Delta region.

Above all, peace campaign project of NDPI, an arm of Amange foundation, seeks to leverage on this scheme in promoting peace within the water-locked communities, creeks and islands of Bayelsa state.

## **THE WIDOW'S PURSE**

This scheme as the name implies focuses on widows and orphans. This project is responsible for the monthly financial supports to widows and orphanages in the Bayelsa state. Thus, this is the most unrevealed aspect of Amange Foundation. However, any support for the scheme is most warmly welcomed.

## **THE MOUTHPIECE**

This is a Niger Delta project aimed at lending voice to the problems and challenges of the Niger Delta people within the government circle. In this project, cases of injustice are transmitted through Amange foundation to the Nigerian National Assembly.

The Peoples' Mouthpiece project utilizes the force and tenets of democracy, specifically, the use of motions and people-oriented legislations. Presently efforts are made against all forms of oppression and unnecessarily frequent military intervention in the Niger Delta.

## **AF ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **1. NIGER DELTA PEACE INITIATIVE, NDPI**

#### **NDPI/Joint Revolutionary Council, JRC pact.**

Joint Revolutionary Council is an umbrella body of most militant youth organization in the sub-region. About a year ago, a deal was reached between NDPI and JRC. The pact/agreement ensures that the youth lay down arms while NDPI help demobilize and help reintegrate the youth militants into the society. However, the pact could not be upheld because of lack of funding and federal government's collaborative efforts.

### **2. MICRO-BUSINESS ASSIST, MBA**

This arm of Amange Foundation has helped more than 645 youths and women gain financial assistance and economic independence.

#### **Over 150 youths gainfully employed, over 45 business aids.**

This project has helped/employed more 150 youths. Evidently making them economical viable and responsible in their various communities. Moreover, in August 2008, Amange Foundation assisted more than 45 business owners received a business support worth N60,000.00 each.

#### **More than 430 women beneficiaries.**

This scheme has not only helped more than 430 women and indigent widows but has proved to revolve within an ever-increasing cycle. WESP was kicked off with 200 women receiving equally the total sum of N10 million. However, the scheme now hosts more than 220 women/widows at a time with more than N12.5 million in circulation among the indigent women in the creeks.

### **3. REDISCOVER EDUCATION SCHEME, RES**

#### **150 School Quits Annually Registers for WASC, NECO Exams.**

This project has helped reorient youths on the need for advance studies in tertiary institutions. It annually registers 150 selected students from 3 LGAs of Bayelsa East (namely Nembe, Ogbia and Brass) for WASC, NECO and JAMB examinations as external candidates.

## **Many Bayelsa East Students on Education grants/scholarship.**

Presently, more than 6 students have graduated from under the scheme with many still in the university. This scheme has also assisted in paying the university (tuition) fees of many of the successful 150 students of Remedial Education Project. Furthermore several number of Bayelsa East students, studying in Nigerian universities, have received scholarships.

In addition, this scheme has supplied several hundreds of thousand Naira worth of education aid materials to primary and secondary school pupils. These supplies include biros, pencils, exercise books, etc. These supplies are also part of the education campaign project of the Amange Foundation.

## **4. THE MOUTHPIECE**

This arm of the Amange Foundation is the voice of the voiceless oppressed in the society. Several cases of injustice, molestations, non-committal to contract terms, etc., have been brought and attended to by the Amange foundation.

This arm has helped passed motions and also prepared bills to address the perceptible injustice within the polity. This arm works through Bayelsa East senator and chairman board of trustee of Amange Foundation, Sen. Nimi Barigha-Amange. Some of the activities include:

- Motion on the withdrawal of the Military Force in Nembe
- Bill on the Amendment of 13% Derivation Bill

See <http://www.barigha-amange.com> for more details.

## **5. THE WIDOW'S PURSE**

This Foundation project activity remains secret and undisclosed. The only information accessible is that Amange Foundation monthly supports widows and orphans basically from the purse of the chairman and sole financier of Amange Foundation, Sen. Nimi Barigha-Amange.

Moreover, Amange Foundation is funding the building of two orphanages within Nigeria. Many of such similiar projects are undertaken secretly by the Foundation in support for the destitutes and disadvantaged in the society.

## **AF BOARD MEMBERS**

### **Sen. Nimi Barigha-Amange**

He is the chairman, board of trustees of Amange Foundation. Presently, he is a serving senator representing Ogbia, Nembe and Brass people in Bayelsa State. Sen. Nimi Barigha-Amange is a retired senior engineering staff of Total-Elf Petroleum Nig. and also a lawyer by profession. Moreso, he was the chairman board of directors of several committees and agencies like Federal Medical Centre, Keffi; Niger Delta Basin Development Authority; PENGASSAN-Elf Petroleum, Port Harcourt; Kano state fact finding/reconciliation committee, etc.

### **A.J.K. Balewa, MD, Ph.d**

He is an erudite medical doctor, researcher, and scholar. His professional experience spreads across varied disciplines and humanitarian organizations. He has headed and is a member of several professional, research and humanitarian organisations within and outside Nigeria. He is bringing his great wealth of experience and expertise into the foundation.

### **Apia, Eric Chinedu**

A professional lawyer with 15+ years in legal practice. He is the secretary and legal adviser to Amange Foundation. His experience cuts across several national and local appointments; several state and national committee leadership and membership. His experience and leadership in Rivers state poverty alleviation project, reconciliation committees, etc. has made him an invaluable resource person in the board.

### **Amiebi, Seigha**

He is a master's degree holder in international law and diplomacy. Moreso, he has over 12 years combined experience in management cutting across diverse industries and firms. Aboveall, Seigha's inside understanding and local knowledge of the people has made him an indispensable resource person in the administration and the board of trustees of Amange Foundation.

### **Okutu, Yibo**

She is a young dynamic person with good years of experience in youth volunteer activities. She is a banker by profession with a very good administrative and accounting skill. She is a resource person in youth projects and programs of Amange foundation.

## **AF CONTACT INFORMATION**

### ***Nembe:***

*Amange Foundation*  
#1 Chief Amange Street  
Ogboloamabiri  
Nembe LGA  
Bayelsa State  
0803 9316 351

### ***Ogbia:***

*Amange Foundation*  
Adjacent Shagari Square  
Ogbia Town, Ogbia LGA  
Bayelsa State.  
0803 3998 198  
0708 4237 302

### ***Brass:***

*Amange Foundation*  
Beside Sambo-Ama bridge  
Sambo-Ama  
Twon Brass, Brass LGA  
Bayelsa State.  
0705 7012 244  
0807 4943 736

### ***More info:***

*Visit us:*      [www.amangefoundation.org](http://www.amangefoundation.org)  
                     [www.amangemobileclinic.org](http://www.amangemobileclinic.org)

*Write us:*      [admin@amangefoundation.org](mailto:admin@amangefoundation.org)  
                     [info@amangemobileclinic.org](mailto:info@amangemobileclinic.org)