

Essence of oil tweets – The Political Economy of Oil

1. Niger Delta wanted resource control as West controlled cocoa, North groundnuts, East palm oil #EssenceOfOil
2. Phillipson Commission(1946) recommended 50% for producing region, 35% to others, 15% to central govt #EssenceOfOil
3. Hicks Commission(1953) recommended 100% rents & royalties to the area of origin as derivation principle #EssenceOfOil
4. Ralsman Commission(1958) put it as 50% to regions, 30% shared by others and 20% to central govt #EssenceOfOil
5. But after the civil war, producing regions lost control and only 3% returned to them #EssenceOfOil
6. Fed Govt making 12 states from Northern, Western, mid-Western & Eastern regions took control of resources #EssenceOfOil
7. Power moved from regions into “no-mans-land” at the center where a federal elite quickly blossomed #EssenceOfOil
8. As the quest for self-determination rolled into a violent struggle, resource control was an issue again #EssenceOfOil
9. The Niger Delta wants 25% of revenues produced from their area during OBJ regime 13% was established #EssenceOfOil
10. The tug of war between the federal and regional elites continued for control of the #EssenceOfOil
11. Gowon in 1971 abrogated the rights of littoral states in minerals in their continental shelf #EssenceOfOil
12. The on-shore, off-shore dichotomy was established. 13% derivation initially for on-shore not off-shore oil #EssenceOfOil
13. Court judgment in favour of fed govt. Niger Delta escalated violence and negotiations began #EssenceOfOil
14. Through #NASS it was resolved continental shelf continues till 200meter water depth isobaths #EssenceOfOil
15. The underlay to all of this was that a north-south dichotomy was already at play #EssenceOfOil
16. Amalgamation of northern & southern Nigeria by Lugard was an accounting entry #EssenceOfOil
17. Amalgamation too surpluses from the south and used it to cushion deficits from the north #EssenceOfOil
18. Southern elites distrusted the move and perhaps this is partly source of their mutual suspicion #EssenceOfOil
19. In the Niger Delta it is repeated with the rest of the country being subsidized off oil from the region #EssenceOfOil
20. Today there is even more suspicion and mistrust between regional & fed elites, northern & southern elites #EssenceOfOil
21. Historically, when agitation spikes, fed elite tinker with development commissions as panacea #EssenceOfOil
22. 1957 the Willink Commission recommended the Niger Delta Development Board #EssenceOfOil
23. 1970 – 1976 the response was Niger Delta Basin Development Authority #EssenceOfOil

24. After that, the Oil Mineral Producing Areas Development Fund Committee was established #EssenceOfOil
25. In 1992 this gave was to the Oil Mineral Producing Areas Development Commission, OMPADEC #EssenceOfOil
26. 1998 and Maj. General Popoola Committee was established at the request of Abdulsalami Abubakar #EssenceOfOil
27. 2000 Niger Delta Development Commission, NDDC supported by presidential committees 2002-2007 #EssenceOfOil
28. 2008 still with no real solution to the self-determination agitation, a Fed Ministry of Niger Delta formed #EssenceOfOil
29. This was followed by an Amnesty programme in 2009. US\$1bn has been spent on that programme to date. #EssenceOfOil
30. More States & LGAs also response when minorities complain of under development or marginalization #EssenceOfOil
31. The final response of the federal government is usually to create a Joint Task Force and annihilate agitators #EssenceOfOil
32. We have been told by president Goodluck Jonathan that the PIB would be a panacea to all the agitations #EssenceOfOil
33. None of the versions floating around has the answer to the core problem: mutual distrust between the elites #EssenceOfOil
34. The elites struggle to control and exploit the offices of State and thereby all resources controlled by it #EssenceOfOil
35. Political insecurity results when 1 group of elites employs the State to overwhelmingly direct #EssenceOfOil to itself
36. The politics has largely been over the question of ownership and control of oil resources in the Niger Delta #EssenceOfOil
37. Check out the petroleum act which took all oil bearing lands away from the communities that own them #EssenceOfOil
38. Check out the PIB that now seeks to establish an Oil Bearing Communities Development Fund (CDF) #EssenceOfOil
39. Have we learnt nothing from history? Who will administer the CDF? Will they be different from those who came before? #EssenceOfOil
40. Young people of Nigeria, we need a place, a platform where we can find accurate facts about the #EssenceOfOil
41. Monday, July 23, 2012 is the launch date for the portal titled, The #EssenceOfOil – where you can research stuff for yourself