

Essence of Oil tweets – Historical Perspective

1. Nigeria's search for oil started in 1903 when the British set up the Mineral Survey Corporation #EssenceOfOil
2. By 1937 with no oil found, the British gave Nigeria as one oil bloc to the Shell D'Arcy company #EssenceOfOil
3. Shell made commercial oil finds in 1956 and by 1958 started commercial production #EssenceOfOil
4. From the start, oil was an arrangement between the government and the international company #EssenceOfOil
5. The Niger Delta Elders petitioned govt about marginalization by oil company and ethnic majorities #EssenceOfOil
6. In 1957 the Henry Willink Commission was set up to look into the complaints of the Delta #EssenceOfOil
7. The protest became agitation for separate Niger Delta region in order to control the derived oil revenues #EssenceOfOil
8. The Willink Commission rejected idea of a Niger Delta region in 1958 #EssenceOfOil
9. Instead in 1959, a Niger Delta Development Board was established #EssenceOfOil
10. Alignment of interests between British Colonial Administration and Shell Oil already visible 1959 #EssenceOfOil
11. Youth led by Isaac Adaka Boro rejecting "injustice" formed Niger Delta Volunteer Service (NDVS) in 1966 #EssenceOfOil
12. 150man NDVS declared Niger Delta Republic, sacked Bayelsa police station, & resisted the army for 12 days #EssenceOfOil
13. Boro said remember your 70yr grandma who still farms to eat & your poverty stricken people #EssenceOfOil
14. Remember too your petroleum which is being pumped out daily from your veins, and then fight for your freedom #EssenceOfOil
15. Boro's men saw themselves and strangers in their own country – they fought for a right to self-determination #EssenceOfOil
16. In the course of the civil war, Adaka Boro who was absorbed in the army died in action #EssenceOfOil
17. The Nigerian govt must have thought with the exit of Boro was the exit of the Niger Delta Struggle #EssenceOfOil
18. When govt & oil company too cozy and host community continually marginalized, youth tend 2 take up struggle #EssenceOfOil
19. The youths were so frustrated with general neglect that they were ready for any action to gain liberty #EssenceOfOil
20. Led through dark alley of perpetual political & social deprivation, the youth were ready 2 break out #EssenceOfOil
21. Exploitation, environmental degradation and loss of livelihoods followed for decades after #EssenceOfOil
22. Widespread poverty, absence of development and a weak voice was the Niger Delta for years #EssenceOfOil
23. By 1995 The movement for self-determination in the Niger Delta had become popular and articulate #EssenceOfOil

24. They became a threat when they issued ultimatums to oil companies to pay compensation or leave their lands #EssenceOfOil
25. Activities of MOSSOP 1990-1995 led to Ken Saro-wiwa & others being hung by Abacha with Shell support #EssenceOfOil
26. Adoption of Kaiama Declaration by Ijaw Youth eventually led to their forceful putdown by military #EssenceOfOil
27. The Ijaw Youth were accused of murdering 9 policemen and that was excuse for OBJ killing 2483 at Odi #EssenceOfOil
28. Niger Delta youth moved from shouting for rights, to a struggle and now scene was set for an armed struggle #EssenceOfOil
29. The transition to armed struggle has passed 6 steps: 1. Civil society, mobilized a popular civil struggle #EssenceOfOil
30. 2. Agitation moved from targeting multinational oil companies to targeting the Nigerian State itself #EssenceOfOil
31. 3. Demands changed from purely developmental to political issues such as resource control #EssenceOfOil
32. 4. Entrance of youths, youth militancy and youth militias with volatile demands and ultimatums #EssenceOfOil
33. 5. Amnesty programme introduced to de-escalate conflict with over N50bn spent by Yar'Adua #EssenceOfOil
34. 6. A president GEJ from Niger Delta now spending \$405m on militants in 2012 and total now exceeds \$1bn #EssenceOfOil
35. Nigeria is paying off the most deadly of militants possibly encouraging others to be more radical #EssenceOfOil
36. Is militancy over in the Niger Delta? What are those who did not benefit from amnesty doing for a living? #EssenceOfOil
37. The Petroleum Industry Bill touted by GEJ as final answer to these questions has nothing on the subject #EssenceOfOil
38. Isaac Adaka Boro raised the critical consciousness of 150 youth. MEND came decades later. What is next? #EssenceOfOil
39. Isn't it time young Nigerians armed themselves with the facts and figures needed to mobilize for change? #EssenceOfOil
40. Coming in 7 days, a portal where you can research facts and figures about the #EssenceOfOil