

GEO-SEISMIC SURVEY LIMITED: FLAGRANT DISREGARD FOR LABOUR LAWS, DESTRUCTION OF ECONOMIC CROPS, PROPERTY & UNDERGROUND WATER FROM BOREHOLES IN ETINAN LGA.

Geo-Seismic Survey Limited is a firm, contracted by Sterling Oil Limited to perform pre-exploration seismic surveys in areas covered by OML 13, including the following LGAs' in Akwa Ibom State: Mkpato Enin, Etinan, Nsit Ibom, Nsit Ubium, Etim Ekpo, Orue Offong Oruko, Eastern Obolo, Ikot Abasi, Oruk Anam, Esit Eket, Eket, Onna.

Activities performed in the course of the seismic surveys include drilling of boreholes up to 35m to bury the dynamite & other data recording devices, underground detonation & blasting of the dynamites.

The firm's activities are in advanced stages of completion & have concluded operations in some LGAs outlined above, and have left the following in their trail of activities:

- Bypass (or inadequacy) of Environmental Impact Assessment from the Ministry of Environment resulting in cracked buildings in areas like Ayam Efa, boreholes in Ikot Inyang & Nkana now pumping brown water
- Non compensation for crops enumeration and assessment of the damage(s) of the blasts
- One Meter Excavations (Receiver & Shooting Lines) that traverse each LGA land mass area, in Mkpato Enin for instance, all 87 villages have been affected; some reported cases outlined below:
 - Mr. Ubong Okpok's borehole in Nkana is completely damaged & currently pumps brown water after the blast
 - Mr. Ikakke John's borehole in Ikot Inyang is completely damaged & 5 buildings cracked
 - Fish ponds in Ikot Abasi destroyed
 - Stop Over Guest House in Ndon Eyo, Onna LGA- half of the hotel has been cracked
 - Elder Saturday Tim of Oruk Anam, the blast has affected his farmland
- Noncompliance to compensation for crops enumeration & assessment of the damage(s) of the blasts
- Complaints from land owners have resulted in intimidation & eventual beating up by the security

In Bayelsa State, Sterling Oil had a running battle with the communities where they operated- they paid compensation of about N800 million to each of the LGAs involved- should this be different in Akwa Ibom State?

Mr. Speaker & my distinguished colleagues- especially those whose LGAs are inclusive above, I crave your indulgence for this Honourable House to invite the following entities to explain to the Akwa Ibom State people in this hallowed chamber, the foregoing- amongst other things:

- Geo-Seismic Survey Limited
- Federal Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of Environment, Akwa Ibom State
- Relevant Stakeholders in each of the LGAs