

The scholarship meant for **Ex-agitators** caught my attention while trying to apply for a Niger Delta scholarship. Since the oil boom in the 1950s, the Niger Delta has suffered environmental crises while indigenes who protested were either killed like Ken Saro Wiwa or silenced with money.

These crises include flooding from rising sea levels, displacement, land degradation and gas flaring. A friend told me of his Delta village where fire burns on the ground day and night making the land unusable for farming or living.

What makes the situation ironic is that Niger Delta is practically the backbone of Nigeria's economy through oil production but suffers the most environmental damage.

This is a glaring problem that can be fixed, my teacher asked "when the oil finishes, how will we survive?"

We should diversify our economy by returning to agriculture and adopting sustainable energy such as solar and wind power. Instead of costly importation, we should train youths to build these technologies locally creating jobs and boosting the economy.

We are the future they protested for, still we live with this havoc. If this generation doesn't want this crisis to continue, we must follow the activists' path through sustainable restoration efforts.