

Determinants of Social and Rural Communal Conflict in South –South Environment, Nigeria

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Abstract: - South- south region is one of the prominent geographical zones in Nigeria West African with hilarious mineral and natural resources. The rich environment has attracted many multi-national companies especially in the oil and gas sector and the people believed that conflict is the only strategy to benefit and attract physical development in their negatively impacted environment. This research was demanded to really substantiate the claim. Therefore, activities and survey of multinational companies, land use dispute, chieftaincy tussle, social media /online communication, waterfront geography and undemocratic leaders questionnaires were designed and distributed across the six states of south-south region for complete determination of social and rural conflict. The collected questionnaires or samples were prepared and analysed using regression and Duncan multiple coefficient. The results for determination of social and communal conflict in the region detailed that exploration and multinational companies ($t = 12.748$), chieftaincy dispute ($t = 11.230$), social media /online communication ($t = 7.797$), waterfront geography ($t = 3.324$), undemocratic leaders ($t = 2.992$) and landed use property ($t = 3.214$) at ($p < 0.05$) are the drivers of social and rural communal conflict in the region. In respect of social and communal conflict variation, the study further revealed that there was a significant difference and the analysis detail that rivers state recorded the highest social and rural communal conflict with the value of (2.9543), delta state (2.8333), bayelsa (2.7342), akwalbom (2.6952), Edo (2.5729) and (2.5153) for cross rivers state at ($p < 0.05$) alpha significant level. It is our utmost view that social and rural communal conflict will diminish considerably in the region if people of various state ensure that undemocratic leaders and bitter politician are voted out of power without prejudice and irrespective of their financial strength. Since their representation in governance anchored on intimidations of commoners, oppositions and discard the selection of environmental expert such as urban planner, architects, surveyors etc that can efficiently represent various communities before multi-national companies, but select incompetent residents, illiterate and non-professions who cannot contribute to rural development agendas to represent their various communities before multinational companies and other governmental development forums. Therefore, creates vacuums for inevitable conflicts which does not encourage or enhanced community, rural and physical development from democratic governance and multinational companies operating in the region.

I. INTRODUCTION

Conflict denotes human mechanisms that occur as a result of discrepancy or lack of enthusiasm which hampers or deters environmental peace, development and its

transformation agenda all-over the world. It may also be viewed as physical, mental and material tussle that arise between people of diverse ideology or class. For conflict to occur there must be space, power tussle and competition over resource or political contest to prove supremacy. The phenomenon is always human initiative but varies from one locality to another while its consequences stand regrettable in nature and many factors are responsible for it especially in sub-Saharan African part of the world (Researchers survey 2020).

In human societies, research on causes of conflict have been built on the analysis of issues related to payment of tributes, landed property and insecurity, more over determinants of social and communal conflict studies have received much consideration owing to enhanced measures of identifying the causes, consequences and the trans boundary effect of conflict in various regions which allows for determination of permanent and temporal conflict in society and relatives to their sources. The work of [2] investigated the impact of community conflict on rural economic activity in osun state Nigeria. The study accessed data through random sampling method and oral interview in ninety community members and held analysis with descriptive and inferential statistical techniques. Their findings proved that boundary dispute, political tussle among community patricians, chieftaincy dispute, competition of community members over unlimited resources and issues related to payment of tributes. However, the concluded that loss of properties, reduction in income and loss of employment among others are the consequences. Similarly, [9] Researched the effect of countless methods of conflict, differently and inclusive with the collective conflict index applying the principal component analysis statistics. Their work grants certain elementary formalized realities concerning the impacts of conflict on the productive structure of the economy. They maintained that Conflict diminishes the share of the manufacturing sector in the GDP, increases the exploitation of forestry and as well lessens the growing of crops. In furtherance, the authors applied industrial level data while researching the networks via which conflict disturbs the manufacturing sector in developing nations. Finally, they discovered that industries that are more institutional/transaction intensive are the ones that suffer most in conflictive people. According to them, Labor-intensive sectors were negatively affected by conflict while exporting

industries and sectors requiring external financing suffers more during conflict.

While evaluating the causes of conflicts among rural communities of Archi District Afghanistan,[18] found that some of the issues that leads to conflict in rural district Archi include inter-religious misunderstandings and disagreements, political, land and water distribution among rural community peoples, economic tensions, intolerance, injustice of the local elites and other community elders, discrimination, ethnic supremacy, political challenges, competition on scarce resources, wrong perception about NGO's, teaching of modern knowledge, cultural practices, land ownership, misuse of Islamic Knowledge, childhood or forced marriages and corruption in project implementation. The authors maintained that many protuberant conflicts have greatly troubled every kind of developmental initiative and have also exposed human injuries, loss of lives and properties. They added that in respect to project execution, some of the organizations are arranging projects proposed by the local elites such as Mullah's and Arbab's of the district. That in time of conflicts, economic activities cannot take place; pupils find it difficult to attend schools, women were prevented not to tutor in institutions or other learning options from Taliban side of the district if they are doing against their order especially when the people are getting bodily castigation. However, the inability and the constraint power of the government to establish successful judicial structures and systems, the rural district communities of Archi anchored their conflict resolution mechanism on Islamic Sharia, Shura, Jirga and Jirga unlike the areas Bramtha were Mosques and big guests houses are used for conflict resolution while Mullahs area of Achi gives sacred endorsement to any decisions.

In another study [12] examined the effects and causes of these conflicts in the Nigerian construction industry with the intension of proffering a recommendation measures based on earlier reading. The work applied and distributed questionnaire survey to identify the causes and effects of conflict from the project managers and contractors. The result showed 10 key significant factor bases of crisis and 5 major severe effects of conflict common in the Nigerian construction industry. according to the author the determinants of conflicts involved win-lose scenario, failing to share credit, questioning others motives, disgruntled client, diverse perspectives, Arrogance, assumption, competitive personality and feeling judged. However, damaged and psychological wellbeing, complaint and blaming, dissatisfactions and stress insubordination, withdrawal and miscommunication are the five strong effects of conflict. Heendorses that conflict ought to be predictable, deliberate, tackled, and external, determined with satisfactory conflicts management approaches in other to reduce or avert it from happening. In the same vain,[3] look at the causes, impact and remedies of organisations conflict as a result of competition for supremacy, leadership style, and scarcity of common resource. The study proved that conflict can sometime produce positive result if well managed. They concluded that early recognition and paying attention to the

conflicting parties and negotiation between parties involved in the conflict should be adopted in resolving conflict while intimidation should never be used to resolved conflicting parties.

Scientifically, [6] assessed the organizational origins of political violence in 35 African states utilizing data obtained from the social conflict in Africa dataset and the beck and Katz panel corrected standard errors time series regression model. According to the authors, independent variables that operationalized the ideas were obtained from four different angles while access to Education and Infrastructure, Ethno Linguistic Fractionalization, Freedom in the World Political Rights, and National Material Capabilities were the important analysts of social conflict the study analysed. However, his investigation shown that ethnic fractionalization and material capabilities within states rose, the frequency of social conflict events also enlarged while access to infrastructure and political rights dropped the quantity of social conflict proceedings increased. Statistical tools such as waldchi-square and R-square values proved a complete and substantial descriptive power as closed political opening structure, together with a fragile condition unable to provide community goods, would combine to yield high stages of social conflict.

[4] Researched the role of socio-economic factors in conflict across the San community of Platfontein. His exploration incorporated 2013 and 2014 primary data method gained from personal conversations and concentrated group deliberations. The findings established that socioeconomic factors are the major determinants of conflict and remains the remedies for the same conflict. He noted that the sources of conflict know many years ago as contained in the historical movement and deficiency of land the community faced. That San community is known to bereliant on the limited resource of some experts as their massive population is unemployed. The economic hardship has become one formidable cause of conflict in that community. The study concluded that the major determinants of conflict between the San community and other communities were related to unemployment and unfair treatment while Socio-economic factors are appreciated elements in the steps to resolve conflict and healing the sensitive problems of the conflicting groups.

[13] Found that the endogenous connection among conflict procedures and household economic position triggered the appearance of interdependent relations between equipped groups and households residing in places they exercise power that touch noticeably the potentials of a conflict beginning and its efficacy subsequently. That Families vulnerable to poverty and household vulnerable to violence were involved at the commencement and during the conflict while the inferior the family at the commencement of the conflict, the advanced the likelihood of the household contributing and supporting an equipped members. The study explained between the variables which vary with the communal conflict and denoted direct and indirect effects of conflict-induced violence on the economic character and pronouncements of

families in warfare areas. However, the work concluded that families in conflict zones pull on local armed forces of the community to protect various economic stands in circumstances of violence forestalling and conflict proper, despite the fact armed class applied diverse heights of contribution, provision and collaboration from indigenous people to improve their initiated tactical intentions at the commencement and throughout the conflict.

The research of [17] investigated the increase understanding concerning the reasons of conflict in inter-competitor cooperation. His research focused on transportation industry and the natural products industry in Finland while interviewing the managing directors between 2003 and 2006 constituted the data sources the authors applied. The result revealed that determinants of conflict in inter-competitor cooperation can be related managerially, relationally or superficially. In furtherance, the author maintained that Managerial causes of conflict in inter-competitor cooperation can be for the purpose operational or normative, since relational causes can be tactical or normative. That suppliers, salesmen, customers and political factors can trigger conflict in inter-competitor cooperation especially in external level. The evaluation also leads to that of the credence [1] who studied the causes of conflict, its core process, and its effects. However, the author's investigation included conflict escalation, contexts, and conflict management, but found that conflict may be managed by the disputants, managers, third parties. He assumed or advocates that other research and recommendation should be delivered in this direction. As such, [5] looked on the antecedent factors connected with conflict in Australian franchising. Their study centred on conflict and disputation, causing drawing attention for supervisory authorities. Methodologically, the study applied 11 numerous case studies and 30 procedure debates comprising franchisors and franchisees to enhance research question and hypotheses initiative to accompany further level of the research. They disclosed that the non-parametric analysis brought about the advancement of 12 research suggestions comprising constructs expectations confirmation, trust, openness, perceived support and relationship satisfaction in struggling to clarify the previous determinants of conflict in franchising. A recent research by [11] adopted cross-sectional surveys, 12-week longitudinal diary, and other experiment to researched reciprocal relationship among mental models of conflict and various forms of dysfunctional social relations in organizations. The investigation extended to relationship conflicts, inter personal hostility, workplace ostracism, and abusive supervision. Their work intellectualized individual differences in conflict construal as shimmering dissimilarity in people's belief structures concerning conflict and discovers ways unlike elements in people's connective links in specific, the authors philosophies about their positive and negative approach in conflict that links to their personality, experiences in workplace conflict, and how it controls people's behavioural intentions toward them. They established that the best policy

opinions linked in ideally significant ways to individuals' personality, social connections and relationships are more significant than the negative approach opinions, and are advanced as life goes on and as a circumstance of peoples' current experiences towards conflict.

[16] Posited that work-family conflict can originate as a result of dissimilar demonstrative responses, triggering on the fundamental ascriptions people make from their experience of work-family conflict. According to them, the emotional replies, in result, can lead to particular behavioural reactions that would whichever be accommodates or rejected in nature. Finally, the authors built a model of causal attributions that accommodate guilt and shame, job crafting, self-development, withdrawal, aggression and turnover interactive conclusions of work-household conflict.

[15] Obtained primary data from open opinion survey and evaluated conditions that disturb individuals' decisions of whether or not to abscond their household throughout civilian conflicts in Nepal. In respect to "choice-centered" method to investigating compulsory exodus, the author examined the disagreement that people make decision to bolt or live under extremely dangerous environments. However, numerous hypotheses connected to violence, economic opportunity, physical infrastructure or geographical terrain, and social networks on forced migration and gives opportunity for different-equal analysis of the choice-centered approach to research compulsory migration. The findings showed that outside conflict, many significant economic, social, physical, and political factors that affect individuals' choice to flee while the investigations agreed with the prominent hypotheses initiated in summative-level analysis which established better insights into the issues that affect personal-level conduct.

[8] Ascertained the combination of the past history and outcomes of the work-family conflict. Their work considered antecedents / individual differences and job/family characteristics. Meanwhile, the findings are grouped as variables connected to well-being, attitudes, and behaviors. This implies that the perfect thoughtful of the conflict causes between work and family roles and having in mind of the injurious consequences that conflict portray on individuals and organizations, human resources professionals, managers, and representatives of other establishments many work agreement in the direction of increasing ideas for the enhanced combination of work and family or household roles.

[7] Used 2000–02 Greek and Turkish-Cypriot populations to view the philosophies about the root causes of the Cyprus conflict, the political culture, social attitudes, and yet to come solutions. His studies revealed that in cooperation of external and internal issues, emotional and related, played a powerful function in establishment and spread of the conflict. The author also shed light in the intricacy that characterizes obstinate conflicts and concluded that interior, related, and psychosomatic issues are equally significant but should be considered legal and political matters, which must be

inclusive while addressing peace building and proffering imminent solutions.

Also[19] Acquired data from 147 non-teaching staff at a public university where internet facility is used as a policy to combat its unsuitable consumptions. The research also addressed how acuties of procedural justice affect cyber loafing due to partial practice which put an employee in conflict with the organizational rules. He envisages and it as the normative conflict rather than practical justice that really encourages employees to strike back against the organization by engaging in cyber loafing. The study analysed the predicted mediation through structural equation modelling while the findings established that procedural justice is an antecedent of the normative conflict that completely mediates the connection between practical justice and cyber loafing.

[10]Proved that successful reckonable works on extensive political violence has acknowledged the important economic and political causes of civilian conflict. According to the author, much literature had perceived civil war matters like a collective set but never measured if ethnic or religious conflicts were responsible for diverse causes than non-identity conflict. He maintained that imperative discrepancy exists to the extent that identity conflicts are mostly caused by political criticism rather than deficiency of economic opportunity. In furtherance, the study noted that Ethnic variances too linked differently when compared with identity than non-identity conflicts. That many universal variables were found to be prominent causes of civil conflict, which have existed in the vacuum across all the surviving literature. Finally, the investigation illustrated that residing in a debauched or volatile neighbourhood, with undemocratic citizen or leaders

at conflict will perfectly create the chances of an area suffering ethnic civil conflict.

II. RESEARCH METHOD AND PROCEDURE

The investigations mutually embrace primary and secondary sources of data. Earlier studies on determinants of social conflicts in various communities and its consequences from published and unpublished materials constitute the secondary source of information employed for this research. While multiple references like books, research work, conference/seminar and working paper, government records and reports etc were derived as published secondary information sources applied by the study.

Primary Source: for the purpose of this study, a questionnaire was develop to produce response from the populace of the regions to shed more light on issues such as the causes of urban and rural communal conflicts among the people of the region, consequences of conflict, region under investigation, and mitigation measures to ameliorate communal conflicts.

Sampling: The local governments that constitute the region or geo-political zone were stratified based on human population after which eighteen local governments were nominated for research. A total of 2,251copies questionnaires distributed to the public in eighteen selected local government of different states (Akwaibom, Bayelsa, Cross river, Delta, Edo and Rivers) 2054, representing 91percent were returned in south-south Nigeria. Rivers state had the highest number of questionnaire with 350 representing (17. %), followed by bayelsa 344 questionnaire representing (17. %) while delta, edo, cross river and akwaibom had 340 (16.%), 340 (16.%), 340 (16.%) and 340 (16.%) questionnaires respectively. See table 1 below

Table 1: the sampled local government and populations

S/N	State	Local Govt	Projected population	Household population	Sample	%
1	Akwaibom	Abak	205,400	32,102	135	8.00
2		Eket	252,900	34,300	115	5.00
3		Ibena	115,100	17,500	90	3.00
4	Bayelsa	Brass	256,100	34,800	90	3.00
5		Yenagoa	570,800	61,120	160	9.00
6		Ogbia	250,000	34,248	94	4.00
7	Cross river	Yala	292,700	36,080	140	9.00
8		Odukpani	267,800	34,900	100	3.5
9		Boki	259,400	34,850	100	3.5
10	Delta	Sapele	250,000	34,248	100	4.00
11		Warri South	439,600	42,650	170	10.00
12		Bomadi	128,500	18,653	70	2.00
13	Edo	Akoko Edo	352,600	37,091	177	10.5
14		Etsako west	270,700	25,985	58	1.5
15		Owan East	212,600	27,100	105	4.00
16	Rivers	Gokana	338,500	36,845	150	10.00

17		Omumma	151,000	15,650	80	2.00
18		Eleme	277,200	35,901	120	6.00
	TOTAL		4,457,567	594,023	2,054	100%

Source: Researchers survey 2020

III. STUDY AREA

The study was conducted in south-south environment of Nigeria. The geopolitical zone encompasses of Rivers, Akwaibom, Bayelsa, Edo, Cross rivers and Delta state. It is the most prominent and popular area in Nigeria with highest and richest natural resources. The enriched region shared boundary with south- East and north central region on the north, on the west by southwestern region and west by Atlantic Ocean. The environment is the home for all multinational companies such as shell petroleum development company, Agip, elf etc owing to discovering of crude oil in the

region since 1956. As the environment is congested by oil companies, so it attract people from west Africa and beyond who compete for green pasture in different drilling companies that spread across the region and accountable for chieftaincy tussle, land/ space, undemocratic leadership, and other conflicts going on in the area. However, the region is also endowed with tabled land, water bodies, green leaves, sharp sand, high rainfall, average temperature but experience environmental problem such as flooding, land, water and air pollution that also cause conflicts in the area on daily basis. See the map below.

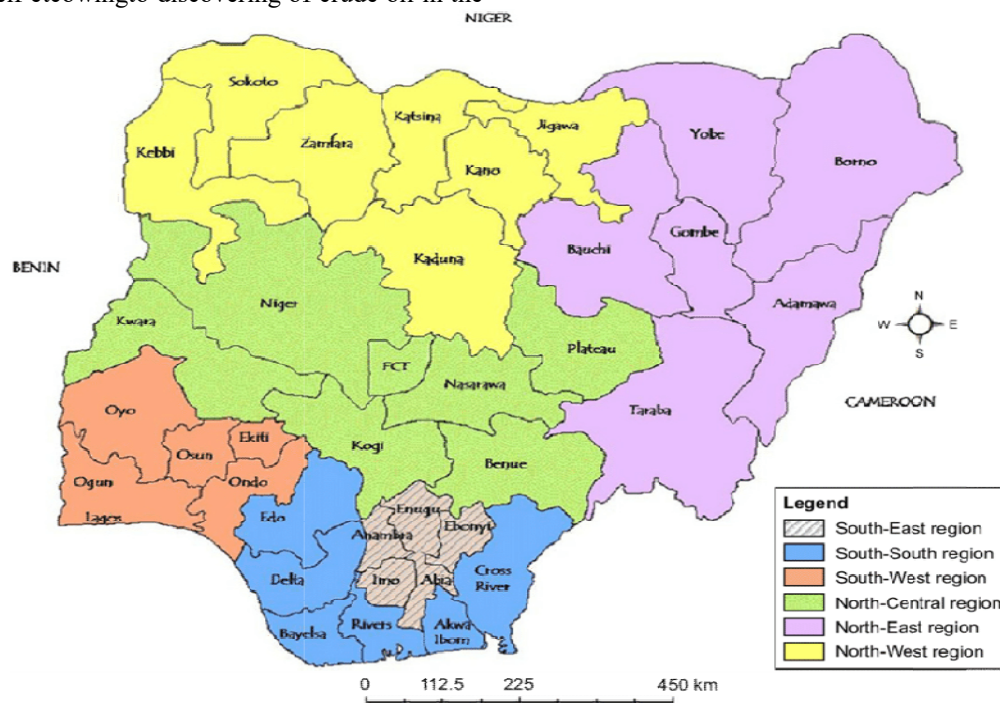


figure1: map of Nigeria showing the six states in south –south region

Source: National identity management commission.

IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Determinants of social conflicts in south- south Nigeria

The findings of the research shown in the regression table above revealed that all the independent variables are significant causes or determinant of social conflict and rural community conflicts among the respondents. Findings showed that oil exploration and multinational companies ($t = 12.748$, $P = 0.001 < 0.05$), served as the prominent determinants of social conflict in south -south Nigeria. It is also followed by chieftaincy ($t = 11.230$, $P = 0.00 < 0.05$), social media /online communication ($t = 7.797$, $P = 0.001$), waterfront ($t = 3.324$, $P = .001$), undemocratic leadership ($t = 2.992$, $P = .003$) and

landed property ($t = 3.214$, $P = 0.00$.) in that order. This implies that the discovering of oil, gas, petroleum products and exploration activities by multinational companies in south-south Nigeria since 1956 crude oil was discovered in the region, gave opportunities for recognition of host communities and their avaricious chiefs who only fight for their families stomach infrastructure before the multinational companies instead of attracting developmental projects for the good and betterment of the regional citizenry. Conflict will continue to linger in the region as oil exploration companies interest continue to create problems between the youths, politicians, elders and chief to gain access to oil drilling activities without incorporating the host communities and the

indigenes who compete to benefit from the resources natural deposited in their region and as well expand in various facet of economy targeted at eliminating poverty and deflating their community members from wandering to urban settings. As a result of conflicts, the security architecture or outfit of the region called economic hub of Nigeria has continued to be porous and people do not have home security, but experience assassinations, extra judicial killing, political intimidation, oil theft and bunkering owing to environmental conflicts emanating from exploration and multinational companies,

chieftaincy matters, social media /online communication, waterfront dispute, undemocratic leaders and political grievances, landed properties and allied matters. Consequently the study upheld the finding of [2] which proved that boundary dispute, political tussle among community patricians, chieftaincy dispute, competition of community members over unlimited resources and issues related to payment of tributes. That loss of properties, reduction in income and loss of employment among others are the consequences.

Table 2: Determinants of Social Conflicts in South-South Region of Nigeria

Unstandardized coefficient			Standardized coefficient		
Model	B	Std.Erro	Beta	T	Significant level
(constant)	53.940	2.439		22.114	.000
Chieftaincy	.548	0.49	.497	12.748	.000
Oil exploration/multi	.717	0.93	.666	11.230	.000
Waterfront geography	.190	0.64	.254	3.324	.000
undemocratic leaders	.664	0.85	.430	2.992	.003
landed property	.670	.202	.219	3.214	.000
Social media/comm.	.675	.201	.211	7.797	.001

Variation of social conflict across the states of south-south environment Nigeria

Determination of social conflict variation or distinction across the states that constitute south- south region of Nigeria succumbed that there is a significant difference while the statistical tool of Duncan multiple and its analysis employed by the exploration determined the social conflicts as follows: rivers state (2.9543), delta state (2.8333), bayelsa (2.7342), akwalbom (2.6952), Edo (2.5729) and (2.5153) for cross rivers state at (p<0.05) alpha significant level. Considering the result, it was observed that rivers state recorded the highest social and communal conflicts across while cross river state recorded the least conflicts in south-south landscape of Nigeria. The findings upheld[18] who observed that some of the issues that leads to conflict in rural district Archi include inter-religious misunderstandings and disagreements, political, land and water distribution among rural community

peoples, economic tensions, intolerance, injustice of the local elites and other community elders, discrimination, ethnic supremacy, political challenges, competition on scarce resources, wrong perception about NGO’s, teaching of modern knowledge, cultural practices, land ownership, misuse of Islamic Knowledge, childhood or forced marriages and corruption in project implementation. The implication is that social and communal conflicts were not restricted to any part of the region but extremely experience in rivers, delta and bayelsastate communities due high contention of chieftaincy matters or tussle, political grievances, quantity of oil well, bunkering and oil theft are difficult to eliminate or reduce it to barest minimum in the area rather conflict will be on wide spread unlike akwaibom, edo and cross rivers state communities characterised by social media /online communication, waterfront dispute and landed property dispute conflicts.

South-south states	Number	Subset for alpha =0.05					
		1	2	3	4	5	6
Cross River	340	2.5153					
Edo	340		2.5729				
Akwaibom	340			2.6952			
Bayelsa	3444				2.7342		
Delta	340					2.8333	
Rivers	350						2.9543
Significant level		1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000

V. RECOMMENDATION

1. For conflict to diminish considerably in our communities and regions, people of various geopolitical zones must ensure that undemocratic leaders and bitter politician are voted out of power without prejudice and irrespective of their financial strength. Since their representation in governance anchored on intimidations of commoners, oppositions and discard the selection of environmental expert such as urban planner, architects, surveyors etc that can efficiently represent various communities before multi-national companies, but select incompetent residents, illiterate and non-professions who cannot contribute to rural development agendas to represent their various communities before multinational companies and other governmental development forums. Therefore, creates vacuums for inevitable conflicts which does not encourage or enhanced community, rural and physical development from democratic governance and multinational companies operating in the region.

2. For government to reduce conflicts and observe absolute peace and tranquillity across the regions and communities, the unlawful dethronement of traditional rulers and politicization of traditional institutions by some of south-south state government whom without reasons replaces the traditional custodians with sycophants who are not knowledgeable with the customary allocation of communal landed properties, practices and attraction of peaceful community development for the people should end. Since the toadies are fake traditional rulers who don't understand their positions in the communities but involved in aiding crisis, confusions and conflicts all over their locality of jurisdiction especially when it has to do with government and multinational companies oriented physical development or projects.

VI. CONCLUSION

The researches on determinants of social and communal conflict in six states that constitute south- south region of Nigeria were carried to ascertain the major causes of conflict in the region. The findings from the investigation revealed that oil exploration and multinational companies, chieftaincy tussle, social media /online communication, waterfront geography, undemocratic leaders and landed property disputes are conflict initiator in south-south Nigeria. The variation of social conflicts across the states of south- south region proved that there is a significant difference across the states of the region. However, the study identified rivers state as the highest conflicts prone area in the region. Also considered are delta state, bayelsa, akwalbom, Edo while cross rivers state recorded the least conflict within the region. The study recommended among others that social conflict will decline drastically in the region if various state of the region ensures that undemocratic leaders and bitter politician are voted out of power without prejudice and irrespective of their financial strength. Since their representation in governance anchored on intimidations of commoners, oppositions and discard the selection of environmental expert such as urban planner,

architects, surveyors etc that can efficiently represent various communities before multi-national companies, but select incompetent residents, illiterate and non-professions who cannot contribute to rural development agendas to represent their various communities before multinational companies and other governmental development forums. Therefore, creates vacuums for inevitable conflicts which does not encourage or enhanced community, rural and physical development from democratic governance and multinational companies operating in the region.

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