

The Olusegun Obasanjo Administration and the Niger Delta Question, 1999-2007

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ABSTRACT This paper examines the response of the Olusegun Obasajo's administration to the festering crisis in the oil bearing belt of the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria. This is done against the backdrop of the ray of hope that was embedded in body language, actions and inactions of the Obasanjo administration as the birth of democracy in 1999 had raised fresh hopes for the effective and democratic resolution of the issues in contention in the oil bearing enclave. The study made use of primary and secondary sources of literature relevant to the issues in contention. The findings of the study showed that the intervention efforts of the regime were not far reaching enough. More importantly perhaps, is the fact that the observable developmental initiatives of the administration were done without political commitment and sincerity. The study concluded that the lackadaisical attitude of the administration toward the development of the region must have contributed in part to the escalation of the Niger Delta crisis.