

## **CHAPTER V**

### **CONCLUSION**

Niger Delta is a region with a tremendous amount of oil and natural gas resources. This region is located in the southern part of Nigeria and consist of 9 states which are Akwa-Ibom, Abia, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, , Edo, Ondo, and Imo along with the state of Rivers. The term of the Niger Delta is actually taken to represent the oil-producing regions.

Since the discovery of oil in 1956, Nigeria became the oil-producing country. Later, Nigeria became the largest oil-producing country in Africa. In 2000, Nigeria has managed to earn the revenue from oil as much as 98% and oil production to reach 2 million barrels per day. With its success in the oil industry, the country's economic growth has been increasing. In fact, even though it is endowed by the abundant natural resources, Nigeria gained a lot of challenges. The wealth of oil resources turned out to cause internal conflict in the Niger Delta region.

The conflict occurred in the Niger Delta is the conflict between the people of the Niger Delta against the foreign oil companies operating there along with the Federal Government of Nigeria. The operation of the oil industry in the Niger Delta makes the people who live in that areas especially Ijaw, Ogoni, and Oloibri ethnics are experiencing a deprivation and grievances. The grievances which leads to such frustration then make the people do the violence and join militant groups. The tension originally occurred decades ago and then

it reoccurred again in 2003. The uprising occurred was followed by the the emergence of armed groups in 2006. The Militant groups such as MEND and NDA have been doing the action of the violence with damaging and destroying the operations of oil companies. The action of existence is marked by the destruction of the bombing, burglary, kidnapping, and oil sabotage.

The reasons and factors that sparks the insurgency occurring in the Niger Delta becomes an important point in this study. By using the theory of relative deprivation, Relative Deprivation theory is one of the competing theory of social science that can be used to explain the insurgency and militancy in the Niger Delta. The conflict in the Niger Delta caused by the grievances of citizens who feel deprived due to the industrialization of oil operations in the region where they live. When it becomes the largest oil-producing region, the people are expecting revenues from the oil sector to bring changes to the development in the Niger Delta. On the contrary, the poverty, corruption, unemployment, loss of land ownership, and environmental damages exist instead of the better changes they have expected.

The economic conditions such as poverty, unemployment, and also corruption become the factors that trigger the presence of armed and militancy group occurrence. The poverty hit this region many years ago until today is still not resolved properly. In addition, the corruption committed by the political elites by taking the incomes from the oil sector added a long list of the outrage committed by the people in the Niger Delta.

The next factor that makes the violence and conflict go on are the people of the Niger Delta losing the rights to the land and also the right to access to oil resources. The Federal Government has set the rights to the oil resources that exist in the Niger Delta under the authority of the Government of Nigeria. The implementation of the Land Use Act 2004 has made the Ijaw and Oloibri people suffer. They form the militant's groups as the way to regain their rights of land.

The last factor is the reason of the occurrence of violence and conflict is the environmental damage. The environmental damage is caused by the activities of the oil industry. The ecosystem such as the water resources, the water, and also the soil is damaged. With the existence of the environmental damage, the people also have to stop their agricultural activities.

Based on the above explanation, the conditions of the deprivation in the aspect of economy, losing the rights to the land and access to natural resources, along with environmental degradation are the factors causing the conflicts and violence conducted by the Niger Delta people due to the oil industry operations

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