

# ***Key Development Challenges for Nigeria's Niger Delta***



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Analysis*

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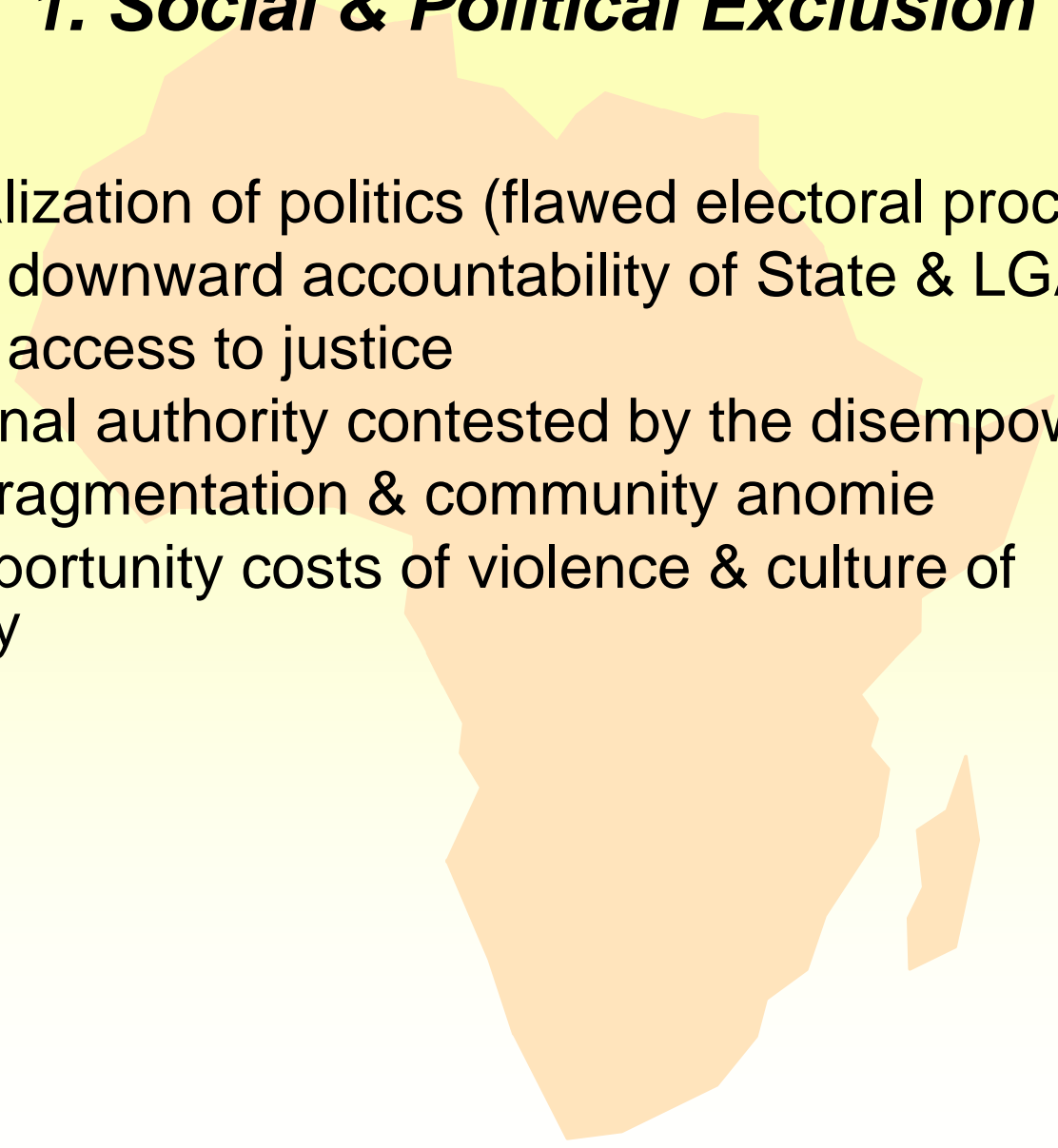
# ***Key Challenges: An Overview***

- Social & political exclusion
- Economic exclusion
- Poor governance & corruption
- Poor infrastructure & public services
- Environmental degradation & livelihood erosion
- Escalating violence & disorder
- Escalation of political violence



# ***1. Social & Political Exclusion***

- Criminalization of politics (flawed electoral process)
- Limited downward accountability of State & LGA
- Limited access to justice
- Traditional authority contested by the disempowered
- Social fragmentation & community anomie
- Low opportunity costs of violence & culture of impunity



## ***2. Economic Exclusion***

- Macro-economic impacts of oil production
- Decline in traditional livelihoods without new opportunities
- Limited access to markets and infrastructure
- High unemployment esp. among youth
- Failure of locals to benefit from oil sector jobs



### ***3. Poor Governance & Corruption***

- Public institutions used for private gain
- Gross mismanagement of resources at State and LGA levels
- Lack of accountability and poor financial management systems
- Weakness of NDDC initiatives and their coordination with beneficiaries, LGA and States



## ***4. Poor infrastructure and public service delivery***

- Physical infrastructure a particular challenge in Delta terrain
- Lack of access to water, schools, health care, electricity
- Poor social and health indicators (esp. child mortality and morbidity)
- Staff shortages and absences



## ***5. Environmental degradation***

- Oil Spills and flaring of associated gas leads to erosion of traditional livelihoods and health through:
  - Disappearance of the wetlands, biodiversity and NTFPs.
  - Loss of land
  - Depleted fishing grounds
  - Water pollution
  - Air pollution



## 6. Escalating violence and disorder

### Violence:

- *between* communities over host community status, land and resource claims and surveillance contracts
- *within* communities over distribution of compensation
- *between* local groups and oil companies/infrastructure
- *between* state and supernumerary police and communities



## ***7. Vicious cycle links criminal activity, political competition and arms proliferation***

- Illegal political economy based on bunkering *funds ...*
- political competition *leads to...*
- endemic violence ... *and*
- arms proliferation... *with*
- emergence of youth cults /warlords *engaged in ....*
- hostage taking, sabotage.

