

KEBETKACHE'S STATEMENT ON WORLD EARTH DAY, 22ND APRIL 2021

Today is World Earth Day! It is an annual event, celebrated every 22nd April. This celebration is to show solidarity and support for environmental justice round the world. This year's theme is "**Restore Our Earth**". The Earth is degenerating towards a total devastation, with enormous environmental degradation as a result of Climate Change and pollution, in order to restore the earth from this environmental crisis.

As we battle COVID-19, a worldwide health pandemic which is linked to the health of our ecosystem, Climate Change, a man-made change to nature as well as crimes that disrupt biodiversity, such as deforestation, intensified agriculture and livestock production or the growing illegal wildlife trade, can increase contact and transmission of infectious diseases from animals to humans, like the COVID-19. 22nd April which is observed globally as Earth Day, calls on the people and major stakeholders to take part in civic activities and work towards raising awareness about critical issues that the earth is facing.

In the Niger Delta part of Nigeria, Global warming, environmental pollution and deforestation are some of the problems faced by citizens, especially women and they pose a major threat to nature. For years now, **#BlackSoot** has been a major health hazard to the people, especially in Port Harcourt City; this is as the results of Oil pollution and increased gas flare in the region, and this is a major threat to ecosystem.

The Theme for this year is "Restore Our Earth" and its focus is on the natural processes, emerging green technologies and innovative critical thinking that can restore the world's ecosystem. This year's theme also rejects the belief that mitigation and adaptation are the ways to address Climate Change.

Kebetkache urges everyone to participate in the movement;

- Stop the Soot
- Reduce all activities leading to Climate Change, by stopping Air, water and land pollution
- Stop Gas Flaring
- Continue to plant trees, to encourage afforestation and discourage deforestation.
- Introduce and promote renewable energy sources.
- Avoid closing water ways and keep all drainage clean.

**#WorldEarthDay #2021WorldEarthDay #RestoreOurEarth #StopTheSoot
#EnvironmentalJustice #KebetkacheWomen #NigerDelta**