



Good day Sir/Ma,

OUR 7-POINT PLEA TO HELP END SOOT POLLUTION IN RIVERS STATE, NIGERIA

I am **<your name>** and I have just found out that I have only **<years result>** years to live. There are others like me who have even less- a ripple effect of our long-term exposure to soot as residents of Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria.

I am writing this letter to plead for the intervention of your good office in restoring the health of the millions of residents of our city. It is no news that over the past few years, our dear state has been taken over by illegal bunkering and oil refining activities resulting in the release of harmful toxins into the atmosphere, causing different forms of respiratory, skin, reproductive, and other life-threatening conditions.

I am humbly calling on you to consider the following preventive measures which I believe can help save our lives and that of our children.

1. Collaboration of government at all levels with all stakeholders- CSOs, traditional and community leaders, religious groups, youth groups and media organizations through enlightenment campaigns on the need to protect and the environment.
2. Identification and containment of pollution sites at the source backed by the banning of illegal and artisanal refining across the state with strict punitive measures in place for all guilty parties
3. Ensuring that IOCs conduct their businesses in line with international best practices.
4. Restructuring and empowerment of environmental/ security agencies with the finance and equipment to implement and enforce environmental laws.
5. Provision of specialized health facilities to cater to victims of identified health hazards of soot, as well as payment of compensation to victims of soot and their families.
6. Empowering the youths with sustainable employment opportunities as a form of deterrence against crime.
7. Provision of basic social amenities such as constant power supply, good roads, standard education facilities, and health services.

I strongly believe that with the implementation of these measures, we can totally eradicate the root cause of the soot scourge that has befallen our state.

The future of the millions of Port Harcourt mothers, fathers, sons, and daughters is in your hands and I strongly believe that we can count on you to take immediate action to restore better living conditions in the state.

Yours Faithfully,

<your name>