

## Oil production in Sekondi-Takoradi

### 80% disagree communities have benefited

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**O**ver 80 percent of residents who have lived in the Sekondi-Takoradi metropolis for five or more years say they have not benefited from the oil find.

The residents who were interviewed in a survey undertaken by the Center for Migration Studies of the University of Ghana in collaboration with the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER) of the University of Ghana disagreed with perceptions that the industry has been beneficial to the communities.

According to the survey, 68.8 percent of the respondents who have lived in the area for less than five years disagreed with the perceptions while 7.5 percent neither disagreed nor agreed.

On views about whether community expectations have been achieved, 82.6 of the respondents who have lived in Sekondi-Takoradi for five or more years disagreed while 11.4 percent agreed.

On whether their personal expectations have been met, 83.1 percent who have lived in the twin city for 5 or more years disagreed while 5.5 percent neither agreed nor disagreed.

But 68.7 percent of the respondents who have lived in the metropolis for less than five years disagreed while 21.3 percent agreed.

Also, 53.6 percent of respondents said the oil production in the region has triggered high cost of living, while 18.9 percent indicated that there was shortage of housing and high rent and 10.9 percent said pressure to secure a livelihood is high.

9.5 percent however said unemployment was high due to the oil production, 5.7 percent stated that crime was high and 1.4 percent noted that the oil production has brought in prostitution.

With regard to respondents' perceptions about why migrants are coming to Sekondi-Takoradi, 35 percent said the migrants are coming to work in the oil industry whereas 29.4 said they are coming to the twin city to search for jobs other than the oil industry. 25.4 percent indicated that the migrants are coming to Sekondi-Takoradi to engage in other forms of trade.

On views about outmigration of people from Sekondi-Takoradi, 48.3 percent who have lived in the city 5 or more years neither agreed nor disagreed whereas 17.3 percent disagreed.

But 44.8 percent who have lived in the city for less than 5 years neither agreed nor disagreed and 28.3 percent disagreed.

Talking about views about influx of people from other regions, 87.6 percent of the respondents who have lived in the twin city for 5 or more years agreed, while 85.0 percent who have lived there less than five years agreed.

On migration status, 46 percent of the respondents were born in the Western region while 52 percent were born outside the western region. 2 percent were however born outside Ghana.

Regarding educational status of the respondents, 35.3 percent were graduates, 16.4 percent were Senior High School leavers, 15.7 percent were post secondary diploma holders and 9.1 percent were post graduate holders.

38.6 percent of the respondents surveyed were Fantes, 30.3 percent Akans, 11.4 percent Ewes and 5.2 percent each for Ga-Adange and Non-Ghanaian. 4.5 percent were Ahanta's, 4.1 Mole Dagbani's and 0.7 percent Hausa.

The study covered areas such as Airport Ridge, Beach Road, Market Circle, Kwesimintim, Efiekuma, Sofokrom, Anaji and Sekondi.

The objective of the study was to find out the social impact of the oil industry on the flows of migrants into the oil city, the changes in land market transaction, access to housing and cost of living.

It concluded that capacity building for the oil industry has been ongoing and it is expected to increase.

But the social sector such as access to land, housing and cost of food are yet to receive the attention of policy makers.

It recommended a comprehensive policy plan addressing all aspects of livelihoods in the city which it said should be a major focus of planning for human development to be achieved in the twin city and Ghana as a whole.