

GHEITI/2019

MINUTES OF THE GHANA EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE (GHEITI) MULTI-STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING WITH THE GHANA EITI CHAMPION, HELD AT THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY, FRIDAY, 8TH FEBRUARY, 2019

1.0 Agenda

- discuss the general GHEITI implementation issues with GHEITI Champion;
- update the Hon. Deputy Minister of Energy on matters inhibiting GHEITI implementation, and his expected role in resolving them; and
- A.O.B

1.0 Opening

The GHEITI Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) met with the Deputy Minister of Energy, Dr. Mohammed Amin Adam who has been appointed as the GHEITI Champion on 8th February, 2019 to discuss issues concerning the Ghana EITI. The meeting which was chaired by Dr. Steve Manteaw, Co-Chair of the Ghana EITI was opened at 2:00pm with an opening prayer by Mrs. Philomena Johnson.

The Co-Chair gave a brief background of the Ghana EITI and also pointed out some key notable achievements of the initiative in Ghana, including the performance of Ghana at the just ended second validation, and mentioned in particular, areas where Ghana had challenges, namely, Quasi Fiscal Expenditures and comprehensiveness of the reporting, which incidentally had to do with the oil and gas sector.

The Co-chair on behalf of the MSG, congratulated the Champion on his appointment, and assured him of the support of the MSG to work together to advance the course of transparency and accountability in the country's extractive sector.

He also highlighted the issue of the lack of representation of a Senior Government person, particularly, political leadership at EITI international conferences and how it affects GHEITI's image. He added that per the structure of the GHEITI, three sector Ministries led by three line Ministers of State (Dep. Minister of Finance, Deputy Minister of Energy, and Deputy Minister of Lands and Natural Resources) are supposed to provide political leadership and direction for GHEITI, but the tripartite political leadership has not been able to meet in a long time. He therefore, reiterated the need for an inter-ministerial Committee meeting involving the three sector ministries to deliberate on how they could work together to support the EITI process in Ghana.

Hon. Deputy Minister's Response

The Hon. Deputy Minister of Energy (Petroleum) started by commending GHEITI for the good work it is doing and particularly, for making time to attend the meeting. He also noted the interest GHEITI has shown in the work of the National Oil Company, GNPC. He added that the Energy Ministry is discussing with GNPC on how to improve accountability and its public reporting. He emphasised that the Ministry of Energy is in support of the idea of keeping GNPC on track especially on its involvement of Quasi Fiscal Expenditures (QFEs).

On the issue of the Inter-Ministerial Group meeting, Dr. Amin stated that he was not even aware the members of the Inter-Ministerial group that was setup to support the EITI because the group has never met before. He, therefore, promised that, as a champion, he would try to engage his colleagues from the Ministries of Finance and Lands and Natural Resources so that they could meet periodically to discuss EITI and how they could support the process in Ghana.

Closing

The Co-Chair of GHEITI expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the meeting. He thanked the Minister for his assurances of commitment and support to the course of Ghana's EITI, adding that he was optimistic about Ghana continuing to show leadership within the international EITI fraternity. He also thanked the members of the delegation for making time to attend the meeting.

Prepared by:



GHEITI Secretariat

14/02/19

Chaired by:



Dr. Steve Manteaw, Co-Chair

20/02/2019