

**REMARKS BY MINISTRY OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES AT  
THE LAUNCH OF THE 2017/18 GHANA EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES  
TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE (GHEITI) MINING AND OIL/GAS REPORTS -  
COCONUT GROVE HOTEL, ACCRA - MARCH 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Mr. Chairman,  
Hon. Ministers  
Members of Parliament  
Directors of MDAs and MMDAs  
Representatives of Mining Companies and Developing Partners  
Representatives of NGOs/CSOs  
Members of the GhEITI  
Distinguished Invited Guests  
Members of the Media  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources is happy to participate in the launch of the 2017/18 GhEITI Mining and Oil/Gas reports.

While it is a known fact that development must necessarily go with mining, to paraphrase the popular saying, whatever we have to support the improvement of our wellbeing which is not grown is mined. But in recent times, there is a global awakening of the need to undertake the exploitation of our extractive resources responsibly.

Indeed, on Monday, the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources delivered a keynote address on behalf of H.E. the President at an international gold conference at Takoradi with a theme of “Promoting Responsible gold in Africa”.

In his speech he also emphasized the need for the building blocks of transparency, accountability and the rule of law to underlay the promotion of sustainable mining, which along with capacity building, value addition, and job creation can catalyse the industrial transformation of our country.

This is the evolving trend of Ghana’s mining sector policy and the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources calls on all stakeholders to support government to champion value addition and the other linkages to our mineral resources that are exploited to ensure we realize optimum value for our development.

Indeed, it is in view of this that the Ghana Integrated Aluminium Development Corporation and the Ghana Iron and Steel Development Corporation, have been established to see to the establishment of an

integrated aluminium industry based on our bauxite and an integrated iron and steel industry based on iron ore and manganese deposits, respectively.

As the Ministry responsible for mining, we acknowledge the important role of transparency and accountability in the management of revenues from natural resources as part of the good governance framework.

The Ministry also believes in the multi-stakeholder approach, akin to that adopted by EITI, to managing our extractive resources. It is in this light that we have time and again used stakeholder engagement rather than unilateralism in adopting policies and governance frameworks. Currently, the Minerals and Mining Laws, in the main Act 703 and its subsidiary legislation, are undergoing comprehensive review and we expect the input of all relevant partners to ensure that the outcome is one which we can generally buy into, support and therefore will be sustainable.

It is in this context that the Ministry finds the course being championed by EITI in Ghana commendable and will like to congratulate all who contributed to make the reports we are about to launch possible.

My Minister will particularly want to commend the GhEITI MSG (multi-stakeholder group) and its collaborators who literally burnt the mid-night oil to ensure that the reports were completed on time.

However, the Ministry would want to urge the members of the team to upscale mainstreaming of processes and information needed for the reports, because this would be the sure way to be able to complete the reports in a more timely and less stress manner.

The EITI report, as usual, provides information on the status of as well as significant findings about flows of resources between both mining and oil/gas industry players, on the one hand, and government on the other, the contribution of the respective sectors to the economy, and in recent times also, beneficial ownership. We note and commend the contribution to these and many other policy direction and remedial measures.

Expecting the work of EITI to continue to facilitate other positive outcomes, through policy, institutional, capacity, and other reforms the Ministry commits to the support of GhEITI's work.

It also commits to support initiatives and reforms aimed at ensuring mutually positive outcomes for all stakeholders in the extractive sectors and to

actively enhance any policy to facilitate the payment of mineral revenues due government by the operators and also for government to in turn utilize these transparently and accountably to achieve development in the most efficient and effective manner. It is in this context that the Ministry, through the MDF Secretariat, is working hard to finalize the Minerals Development Fund (MDF) regulations, among others. We hope that monies due the Fund will be paid timeously, to support the Mining Community Development Scheme and other initiatives promoting development in local communities.

Finally, on the occasion of the National launch of the 2017-18 Ghana EITI Reports, we therefore entreat all other stakeholders to continue to work with government to optimize the sustainable development of the mining sector and promote schemes that will grow the economies of mining communities.

We once more congratulate GhEITI and hope we will cooperate more for our mutual benefit.