

COMMUNIQUÉ

Communiqué of the South – West Zone Stakeholder Roadshow/Town Hall Meeting of the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Held at Sheraton Hotel and Towers, Ikeja, Lagos State on 13th July 2010.

The Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) held a stakeholder Road show/Town Hall meeting involving various stakeholders drawn from across the South-West geo-political Zone in Lagos State on 13th July, 2010. Lead speakers, discussants and participants were drawn from the NEITI National Stakeholder Working Group (NSWG) and Secretariat, Women Groups, Non-Governmental Organizations, Civil Society Organizations, Government Agencies, Academia, Traditional Rulers, Development Partners, Media and the Extractive Industry Unions.

Participants welcomed the implementation of Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in Nigeria and commended the roadshow/town Hall meeting as an important opportunity for Nigerians to understand and discuss the operations of this sector and the work of the NEITI.

After extensive discussions and deliberations, consensus was reached on the following:

1. The need for continuous engagements with civil society through Roadshows/Townhall meetings especially at the grassroots and the need for the NEITI communications strategy to be implemented in a form that the message can be easily accessible to all Nigerians. Deep satisfaction was expressed on the drama sketch as an effective strategy;
2. The need for the NEITI to conduct and publish audit reports up to date as soon as possible in a form that will enhance understanding and institute measures to increase the capacity of citizens and civil society to contribute to the process of transparency and accountability in the sector;
3. The necessity for the NEITI to begin to diversify and extend its audit to the solid minerals sector as they can contribute immensely to the resources of the country;
4. The need for citizens, especially the civil society to strategize and engage the National Assembly to ensure the passage of the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) and Freedom of Information Bill (Fol) into law;
5. Called on the need to carry out a capacity audit of the Civil Society and the need for the capacity of the Civil Society to be built on issues of the Extractive Industry;

6. The need for an enhanced role for the civil society in monitoring of the extractive industries' revenue at all levels of government;
7. There is a need for collective responsibility in terms of transparency and accountability by all stakeholders within the sector;
8. The need for a transparent review of the Joint Venture Agreements and the need to carry out environmental audits on the effects of destruction to the environment and inhabitants therein;
9. The imperative of inter-agency cooperation and collaboration which should be enhanced, including agencies within the extractive industry sector in the area of information sharing;
10. The need to hold government at all levels accountable to ensure that resources and the collective wealth of the nation are well managed for the benefit of every citizen;
11. NEITI was commended for the initiative, and the hospitality of the government and people of Lagos State was appreciated.

SIGNED

Prof. H. Assisi Asobie
Chairman NSWG/NEITI

Malam Haruna Y Sa'eed
Executive Secretary, NEITI

Mr. Leke Alder
South - West Rep. NSWG/NEITI

Representative CSO

Representative CSO