

Communiqué of the South - East Zone Stakeholder Roadshow/Town Hall Meeting of the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Held in Owerri, Imo State, November, 3 2009.

The Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) held a stakeholder Road show/Town Hall meeting involving about three hundred participants drawn from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) across the South-East Zone in Owerri on 3rd November, 2009. 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 including Development Partners, the Media and the Industry Unions.

Participants welcomed the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) to increase transparency in the Oil, Gas & Solid Minerals Sectors in Nigeria and commended the Roadshow/Town Hall meeting as an important opportunity for Nigerians to understand and discuss the operations of these sectors and the work of the NEITI.

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

- The need for continuous engagements like roadshows/townhall meetings 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;
- The NSWG to conduct and publish the audit report 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 extractive revenue streams and good governance.
- The need for full and continuous publication of information concerning extractive industries and the audit thereof; and that persons, companies and governments found engaging in corrupt practices be subjected to sanctions embodied in the NEITI Act.

- The need for citizens to strategize and engage the National Assembly to pass the Freedom of Information Bill (FoIB) into law as a matter of urgency.
- There must be electoral reform to ensure that the electoral process is credible and the votes of the electorates count.
- That NEITI and the Federal Government ensure that the instrument for measurement of crude oil at the oil wells be procured and installed to check leakages
- Called for an enhanced role for the civil society in the monitoring the extractive industries' revenue at all levels of government.
- In appreciating the Roadshow/Town Hall meeting, participants also observed the need to take the meetings further down to the people by going to the local government areas.
- The Federal Government was commended for the initiative, and the hospitality of the government and people of Imo State appreciated.

SIGNED

Prof. H. Assisi Asobie
Chairman NSWG/NEITI

Malam Haruna Y Sa'eed
Executive Secretary, NEITI

Mazi Sam Ohuabunwa

South-East Rep. NSWG/NEITI

Representative CSO

Representative CSO

Representative CSO