

COMMUNIQUÉ

of the North East Stakeholders Road Show of the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) Bauchi, Bauchi State August 29th -30th 2007

The Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) held a Stakeholders Road Show with the theme “Operationalization and Implementation of the NEITI ACT and its implications for civil society, community groups and wider stakeholders”. About one hundred and fifty participants drawn from civil society organizations across the North East Zone as well as stakeholders from other zones participated at the event.

The event was declared open by a representative of the Executive governor of Bauchi state, **His Excellency Mallam Isa Yuguda**. In his remarks, he confirmed that transparency holds the key to the transformation of our country from a potentially rich to an actually prosperous one and emphasized the need to concentrate both in asking the leaders to do the right things and in sensitizing, mobilizing and empowering the people to demand for their rights.

The lead speakers and panelists were drawn from the NEITI National Stakeholders Working Group (NSWG) and the NEITI Secretariat, the Academia, Ministry of Mines and Steel Development (MMSD), the National Assembly, Civil Society Organizations, Professional Associations and Labor Unions in the Mining Sector, including Women’s Groups, Faith Based Organisations, Youth Organizations and Traditional Rulers.

Several presentations were made in a participatory manner that allowed robust and productive discussions to take place amongst the participants.

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

- welcomed the opportunity of the Road Show to learn about the operations of the extractive industries sector of the Nigerian economy and lauded the efforts of NEITI secretariat in extending transparency into Mining Sector. It was acknowledged that this development will increase opportunities for revenue generation, employment creation and economic diversification in the country.
- welcomed the repositioning of the Mining Sector for private sector led development in a manner that will enable it contribute to sustainable development of the Nigerian economy.
- applauded the recent passage of the NEITI Act and urged that it be fully implemented but nonetheless called for a thorough review of the Act with a view to amending it, in order to strengthen the process and ensure effective implementation.
- welcomed the abolishment of discretionary licensing in the Mining sector and the revalidation and reprocessing of mining permit and licenses, as well as financial incentives for participation of small scale miners in Nigerian rural communities.
- called for further reforms of the mining sector to ensure transparency in the collection of mining revenue from large and small companies.
- also called for urgent enforcement of rules at mining sites to prevent illegal mining.

- called upon the NEITI to extend their sensitization campaigns to the grassroots miners and enlighten them on the benefits of adopting transparent mining practices.
- strongly canvassed the need to mainstream environmental considerations and education in the mining sector to reduce the long term negative anthropogenic (man-made) effects on the environment at the end of mining projects and to avoid the mistakes of the oil sector in the Niger Delta Region.
- urged the NEITI to act as a focal point for all relevant stakeholders in the extractive industries i.e. Federal, States and Local Governments, Solid minerals ministry, operators e.t.c., noting that the collaboration of all stakeholders will provide the required impetus for growth of the Mining sector.
- also recommended that NEITI should engage dedicated, competent and motivated staff who share the long term philosophy of NEITI for increased effectiveness.
- urged the NEITI to partner with other anti-corruption agencies like the EFCC and ICPC, with a view to forming synergies in the quest for effective enforcement of the provisions of the NEITI Act especially on the issues of transparency and accountability.
- identified the reforms in the extractive sector now reinforced by the NEITI Act as capable of contributing significantly to the fight against poverty and the quest for sustainable development if and when fully implemented.
- urged civil society groups to partner with government and NEITI in advocacy for transparency and accountability especially in the extractive sector and to become change agents in their organisations and communities.
- identified very critical roles for civil society groups and communities in making transparency take into cognizance issues of community empowerment, conflict management and eradication of poverty.
- requested for more programs like the NEITI Road Show especially at the grassroots level, to deepen the transparency and accountability message and to enable Nigerians learn more about the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.
- Recommended that the NEITI Act and other relevant documents be translated into Nigerian languages to enable Nigerians understand the NEITI Process.
- Recommended that the Civil Society should be active in the reconstitution of the new NSWG and should have greater representation.
- Recommended that steps should be taken to enhance the pace of implementation of the concluded Audit Reports.
- commended the Federal Government for the initiative, and appreciated the hospitality of the government and people of Bauchi State.

SIGNED

Prof. H. Assisi Asobie

President, Transparency In Nigeria (TIN)

HRH Alh. Abubakar Umar Suleiman

Mai Bade

Dr. Siyan Malomo

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