

## **Sa'eed Assumes Duty as NEITI's Executive Secretary**

Mallam Haruna Yunusa Sa'eed, former Accountant-General of Kaduna State, has assumed duty as the first full-time Executive Secretary of the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI). This is sequel to the approval of his appointment by President Umaru Yar'Adua in accordance with the NEITI Act (2007).

The Act empowers the President to appoint the NEITI Executive Secretary upon the recommendation of the National Stakeholders Working Group (NSWG), which is NEITI's governing board. The Act also stipulates that the nominee must be a member of the board. After a rigorous and competitive process, the NSWG selected Mallam Sa'eed as its nominee on February 28, 2008 and forwarded his name to the President.

The President's approval was conveyed in a letter dated April 1, 2008 and signed by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Ambassador Baba Gana Kingibe. The Executive Secretary is the administrative head of the NEITI Secretariat as well as the Secretary of NEITI's board.

Mallam Sa'eed was the Accountant General of Kaduna State from 1995 to 2006. Before then, he was a General Manager at the Kaduna State Industrial and Finance Corporation and Training Manager with the Nigeria Universal Bank, Kaduna. He was also lecturer in Accounting at the Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria from 1986 to 1993.

He earned his first degree in Accounting from ABU in 1983 and his Masters in Accounting and Finance from the same university in 1987. He has had several post-qualification trainings, including the Budgeting and Financial Management in Public Sector course in Harvard University, USA in 2002 and the Fiscal Decentralization and Local Government Financial Management course at Duke University, USA in 2005.

Mallam Sa'eed is 48 years old and hails from Kajuru Local Government Area of Kaduna State. He is married and blessed with children.