

EFCC partners NEITI on oil, solid minerals corruption



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Two anti-corruption agencies have agreed to collaborate to deal with culprits in the oil, gas and solid minerals sub- sector in the country. The Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Malam Nuhu Ribadu, has pledged support for the actualization of the mandate of the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI).

"EFCC shall give NEITI enforcement support," said Mr. Ribadu when the chairman of NEITI, Dr. Siyan Malomo, paid him a courtesy call recently. "The law setting up the EFCC gives us the power to get involved. And we are very much ready to participate fully to ensure the continued success of NEITI."

Malam Ribadu said EFCC was ready to prosecute any erring companies or individuals, in addition to collaborating with NEITI in other areas to ensure the realization of its mandate.

"NEITI is the most important reform introduced in Nigeria given the significance of the oil and gas sector and the mess that sector is in," said Ribadu. "All over the world, this is a sector that is not known to be transparent and for us to have opened it up through NEITI is the best we have done for ourselves. This is a major achievement that must be sustained."

Ribadu also pledged support to ensure that Nigeria's position as the leading EITI-implementing country is not compromised. "This is a positive area where Nigeria is taking the lead," he added. "Everyone around the world is talking about NEITI. Nothing has given our country more credibility than NEITI. We must continue to take the lead. EFCC will be involved in this in any way possible. It is our business to get involved."

He also promised to designate an EFCC official to handle NEITI-related issues to ensure that the issues are treated with dispatch.

Earlier, the Chairman of NEITI, Dr. Malomo, had briefed the EFCC chairman about the passage and signing of the NEITI Act and on-going activities of NEITI. He also called for synergy in the operations of the two agencies in support of good governance in the country.

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