SLEITI Sierra Leone Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative

SLEITI MSG Meeting to discuss the Draft EITI Secretariat Assessment report – 28th March 2019

Venue: Office of the Vice-President, Tower Hill, Freetown

Attendance

Government	**CSO**
Mohamed A. Salisu - MoF Amadu Mansaray - PD Donald Williams - NRA Yusuf Dauda Suma - NMA Ramatu Massaquoi - EPA Mohamed Salieu Bah - NMA/PMT Abu Tarawalie - NRA	Joe Rahall
Company Aminata Kamara - SRL	**SLEITI Secretariat** Mina Horace Mohamed Fernando Conteh

Apologies

Morie Lansana-Audit Service

Agenda

1. Prayers
2. Opening remarks
3. Discussion on the initial assessment report – 2017/2018
4. Closing

1. Prayers

The meeting was declared open following a moment of silence. This was followed by self-introductions by members.

2. Opening

The Chair, Mohamed Amara Salisu in his opening welcomed all and informed that the EITI Validation team have completed their mission to Sierra Leone and based on their initial

assessment report, Sierra Leone was deemed to have made meaningful progress in several individual requirements while a few deemed to be satisfactory. The Chair therefore encouraged members to endeavor to read the report and provide feedback, without which the assessment provided by the Validation team will remain valid and the MSG's comment will not be included in the final report.

3. Discussion on the Draft Initial Assessment Report

The National Coordinator informed that the Secretariat received feedback from a few MSG members from different constituencies. The National Coordinator further informed that the Secretariat was compiling the comments to be shared with the group including the International Secretariat. Other comments were received from the IA was tabled for discussion. (See attached Boas' comments).

During deliberations, the MSG was of the view that the comments provided by Boas speak to the issues raised in the draft Secretariat assessment report. For instance, the issue of Berta system raised by the International Secretariat was outside the scope of the MSG reporting including the IA. Going forward, the MSG agreed to request the MSG Chair to enquire from related MDAs including the Ministries of Trade, Transport and the Attorney General's office whether there is existence of a MoU or agreement between the government of Sierra Leone and mining companies on **Berta** arrangement.

In view of the MSG's deliberations, the National Coordinator informed that the International Secretariat issued a tight deadline for accepting comments from the MSG. In consideration of responding to comments from the International Secretariat and the deadline issued, the MSG said the following issues have stood out clearly in the report **a)** perhaps, some arrangement elsewhere exist which the MSG was not privy to especially the alleged MoU with companies **b)** that some MSG constituency groups seem uncooperative **c)** effort should be made to look into the SLEITI MSG MoU.

In relation to Kingho mining company not participating in the reporting process, it was stated that the company licenses were withdrawn and the representatives have left the jurisdiction of Sierra Leone.

On the issue of income tax payment made by companies which the report claimed that they were not uniform, it was pointed out that the strength of negotiation counts and the NMA was in a position to harmonize the tax payment. In addition, surface rent payment was also discussed.

The report called for harmonization of surface rent payment. However, members were of the view that land use is different and payment could be difficult to harmonies. Sierra Rutile was of the view that their surface rent payment could be inadequate or understated and called on the IA through the MSG to consider rephrasing the statement because their payment was self-explanatory.

Following deliberations, the MSG requested the Secretariat to compile the necessary feedback received from the MSG constituency groups. The MSG also resolved to request for an extension of the deadline for submission of feedback to the International Secretariat. Moreover, effort should be made to get the MoU in question.

4. Closing:

The meeting was brought to a close in the absence of no other business. The motion was moved by Donald Williams, seconded by Yusuf Dauda Suma.

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Signature of Chair

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Signature of Secretary