

EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE INFORMAL MULTI STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Meeting Minutes 1/2013

Date: 7 March 2013

Venue: Credit Corporation Haus

Time: 2pm

In Attendance

1. Mr. Donald Hehona	Department of Treasury
2. Mr. Ismael Sunga	Department of Treasury
3. Mr. John Heni	Internal Revenue Commission
4. Mr. Hiyemute Waine	Internal Revenue Commission
5. Mr. John Moore	Esso Highlands Limited
6. Mr. Frank Tudic	Esso Highlands Limited
7. Mr. Charles Tongia	Oil Search Limited
8. Mr. Samuel Himata	Department of Mineral Policy and Geohazard Management
9. Mr. Kevin Samuel	Department of Finance

AGENDAS AND DISCUSSIONS

1. Meeting Started at 2:10pm

2. Opening Remarks

Mr. Donald Hehona welcomed everyone to first meeting of the informal MSG for 2013. He acknowledged the apologies from those who were unable to make it due to prior commitments. He said that the last meeting was held in September last year and there was no meetings held again until today. For formalities and for those who were new, he asked everyone to introduce themselves.

3. Update from the Government

Mr. Hehona gave a run down on the update of the NEC submission. The submission submitted to NEC in September 2012. The submission was on the NEC meeting agenda twice, however, the sponsor decided to delay NEC's deliberation. Until now, it is still yet to be deliberated. The Government from Treasury's end is still pursuing to get the NEC to deliberate on it. However, he also elaborated that concerted effort from the Industry and CSO is needed to push the submission through.

4. Update from the CSO

There was no representation from the CSO at the meeting. However, Mr. Moore from EHL gave a brief update on what CSO are planning to do. He stated that the CSO through TIPNG will be holding a workshop on EITI in Alotau in April. He said that, CSOs are planning to invite the Minister for National Planning, Hon. Charles Able and Minister for Treasury, Hon. Don Polye to attend the meeting. Representative from the Government and Industry will also be invited to attend the workshop and make presentations. Mr. Tongia added that a draft program has been circulated to the informal MSG members to provide some inputs.

5. Update from the Industry

Mr. Moore gave a brief explanation on the template the industry has produced. Basically they have identified the major payment streams that are made to the National Government. However, he stressed that EITI is a Government led initiative and the Government have to agree on the revenue streams identified.

Resolution:

The meeting agreed that, the first 16 benefit streams identified by the industry will be included in the EITI Report. The Government through IRC will provide its feedback on some of the benefit streams identified. It is not the final benefit stream list and there will be further discussions on the 16 benefit streams identified.

6. Strategy

The NEC has not yet approved the submission that was submitted in September 2012. The issue behind the NEC submission not giving approval yet is because some of the members are not comfortable with the initiative.

Resolution:

Treasury will keep on following on the NEC Submission through the Treasurer.

The industry will also try and assist the government wherever possible to get the NEC submission endorsed.

There was also a proposal to do a presentation to the members of MCES. Esso Highlands will be putting together this presentation. The idea for the presentation is to make Ministers comfortable with the initiative.

7. Meeting closed at 3:30 pm

8. Date of the next meeting - TBA

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Mr. Donald Hehona
Chairman