



PNG EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES
TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE
NATIONAL SECRETARIAT



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Meeting with Civil Society Organization Constituency

Monday 22nd June 2020, 10am-11am

INA conference room, IPA Building, Konedobu, NCD.

Attendees:

Paul Barker – Executive Director (INA)
Arianne Kassman – Executive Director (TIPNG)
Peter Aitsi – Chairman (TIPNG)
Collette Tsiperau – National Coordinator (PNGRGC)
Wallis Yakam – Executive Director (CIMC)
Kelly Kalit – Saua Development, affiliated CSO member to PNGRGC.
Lucas Alkan – Head of Secretariat (PNGEITI)
Christopher Tabel – Deputy Head of Secretariat (PNGEITI)
Francis Diakon – Procurement Officer (PNGEITI)
Sonia Kenu-Becks – Media Officer (PNGEITI)
Oliver Maingu – Coordinator stakeholder Engagement & Outreach (PNGEITI)

Summary of Discussions.

Lucas Alkan – Welcomed everyone to the meeting and said that the meeting was purposely for the CSO constituency to be briefed on the implementation of activities/ projects and the challenges/obstacles faced by the National Secretariat ahead of the first MSG meeting on Friday 26th June 2020.

Discussions included:

- Engagement of EY again as Independent Administrator for the seventh report, the 2019 FY report. With the current COVID-19 pandemic, the International Secretariat has given two options to EITI countries in doing their reports. They can complete their reporting through conventional reporting (normal deadline 31st December) or through flexible reporting (seeking for an extension of the deadline).
- For Beneficial Ownership Study project, BDO Consultants was selected by the MSG as the successful bidder
- For the State-Owned Enterprise Study project, (KTK & Consultants was selected by the MSG as the successful bidder
- For the PNGEITI Commission State Solicitor's Office had raised concerns with the draft bill and these were discussed by the TWG. It is now awaiting MSG to appoint a legal consultant to address questions raised by the State Solicitor in order to finalise the Bill.
- Second Validation that was scheduled for April this year has been moved back to October because of the COVID-19 pandemic worldwide.

Issues identified in implementing the above and implementation of EITI in general.

- The implementation of the 14 day lock down and the SOE in PNG due to the COVID-19 pandemic has greatly affected the workplan of activities and projects for this year.
- The 2019 FY Report will go ahead as planned but its progress will take into consideration the deadlines as a direct effect of COVID-19.
- The two other scoping studies for this year will be dependent on the availability of funds, similarly with other activities. They may be delayed to next year if there is funding constraint due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The delay in the 2019 FY report and the delay in the validation will not be compatible with each other in time for validation to take place, as some of the corrective measures in the first validation have not been fully accomplished.
- The JICA consultants working on the corrective measures (especially petroleum licence registry at DPE) are stuck in Japan because of COVID-19.
- There is lack of political ownership at this stage to drive EITI implementation to the next level.

Way forward to mitigate these issues.

- Will continue to liaise with Department of Treasury to have all PNGEITI funds released.
- For the conflicting timelines for 2nd validation and the 2019 FY report, look/check other countries who are in similar situation as PNG and make a request to International Secretariat for validation extension to make sure all corrective measures are looked at.
- National Secretariat should consider particular issues that are directly impacted because of the COVID-19 pandemic and ask the International Secretariat for alternative options because COVID-19 is affecting all countries, including PNG.
- CSO constituency to use their networks, whether in the private sector or in government to promote the EITI platform in PNG as a way of gaining support for its implementation for transparency & accountability in the mineral, oil & gas sector.
- Use EITI values that are being seen as good to the international community/financiers that are giving PNG a good rating in terms of investment transparency and accountability
- Convince the government and politicians, like the Treasurer/MSG Chairman that it is a government led initiative that PNG signed up to and these EITI values are contributing to the financial assistance that PNG is getting.
- Get the reporting entities, especially the extractive industries to see the value in EITI reports and participate more fully to portray a good image of them as genuine investors.
- Remind the government that any changes to legislations in the extractive industry must be reflective on the EITI principle that it signed up to, that is, consultation of all three constituencies in the MSG for fair and equal representation and done transparently.

----- END OF MEETING -----



Mr. Oliver Maingu

Stakeholder Engagement & Outreach Coordinator.