



**PRESS RELEASE
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Policy Forum has decided to dedicate this month's debate to the issue of transparency in extractive industry in Tanzania. The debate is titled **"The Status of Transparency in the Extractive Industry: trends, challenges and prospects for the future."**

The government of Tanzania joined the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI) in November 2008 and started implementing the initiative in January 2010. This came after the formation of the Multi Stakeholder Group (MSG) which comprises five representatives from the government, five from mining companies and five from civil society organizations.

In implementing the Initiative which ideally revolves around promotion of transparency and accountability of revenues from minerals, oil and gas, a country has to pass through the five stages of sign up, preparation, disclosure, dissemination and validation. What are challenges or lessons that the country undergone in the course of the validation process?

In February 2011 Tanzania managed to produce its first ever EITI reconciliation report. In the report companies disclosed what they had paid the government and the government reported what it had received from June 2008 to June 2009.

Among other things the report revealed that a huge 46 Bn/- was reported missing from government revenues. The emerging questions which remained unanswered to date are what happened to the money? Did the company dodge the government? Who was telling the truth and was not?.Also, what next after producing this report?

These issues, together with developing formal policies on what the government could do to enhance transparency in Extractive Industry will feature as part of the discussion during the Breakfast Debate on Friday 30th September 2011. Invited participants at the meeting include representatives of Government, private sector, civil society, donors, the media and concerned citizens. The discussions are held over light breakfast and enable participants to reflect and debate the issues.

The 7:30 People and Policy Debates are held on the last Friday of every month and the venue will be the BRITISH COUNCIL along **Ohio Street**, from 0730 to 0930. Their main purpose is to examine and debate the extent to which policies serve ordinary people, and identify imaginative questions and solutions.

The main presentations will be made by Bishop Steven Munga, the Member of MSG, and Ally Samaje the Acting Commissioner for Minerals.

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Signed for Policy Forum