

Reforming the Tanzanian Mining Act – Fiscal, Social Environmental Aspects.

Workshop for CSOs and Media
12th - 14th October, 2009
Kunduchi Beach Hotel
Theme: *Making Most of Mineral and Gas Industry of Tanzania*”.

LESSONS LEARNED IN THE MINING WORKSHOP FOR CSO'S AND MEDIA.

The workshop aimed to provide the participants with the knowledge on the mining sector globally and in particular Tanzania in the key issues related to maximizing its contribution to national development with focus on revenue generation, socio-environmental rights and obligations as well as local economic development.

On 12th to 14th October, 2009, the Revenue Watch Institute (RWI) in collaboration with Policy Forum organized a workshop that assembled over 40 participants from various Civil Society organizations (CSOs) and Media organizations in Tanzania.

Some of the participating CSOs included among others LEAT, Foundation Help, ACORD, YWCA, Agenda Participation, BAKWATA, DOLASED and ForDIA, others were from HKC, TAREDO, LHRC and MRD.

The media was represented by participants from the Media Council of Tanzania, NIPASHE, New Habari and THIS DAY News Papers. The three days workshop took place at the Kunduchi Beach Hotel in Dar es Salaam.

The workshop was arranged in four strategic sessions including:

Setting of the workshop context; this session outlined areas to be covered and the learning mode to be used. The session also established participant’s understandings of key priorities in the mining sector as well as the concept of the value chain. Various debates on Tanzania mineral industries both past and the present were also reviewed during the session.

- **Getting a better deal from the Mineral Industry:** This was the second session of the orientation workshop and it mainly focused on revenue aspects of the mineral industry. Participants were acquainted with various fiscal tools used globally in comparison with those established by the Tanzania Mining Act of 1998. In order to cement the participant’s understanding of fiscal tools, facilitators developed an exercise for the participants on how to quantify the government’s take under various fiscal set ups. The role of CSOs as watchdogs in the process as well as mechanisms and strategies on how best to perform their tasks were shared though out the session.

- **Mineral and Local Development:** This session covered the rules and obligations set forth to bring about positive economic development from the extractive industries to the communities. It also intended to formulate the participants into better campaigners for better socio-economic benefits from the extractive industries.

- **Mining and Socio-Environmental Rights and Obligations:** The session introduced to the participants the rules and obligations that impacts the behavior of mining companies and the government on social and environmental protection. Apart from the companies and the government, the session also established the roles of community groups and local governments in enforcing these rights and obligations. Skills of the participants on how to develop effective policies and strategies were tested by a brain teaser prepared by the facilitators.

Methodology:

The workshop adopted a highly participatory methodology that involved paper presentations, group discussions, questions and answer sessions.

Mr. Matteo from RWI London commenced by informing the participants that the Workshop intends to establish the link between mining and general development with special emphasis to the mining sector in Tanzania. He further informed them that there was another workshop of the same nature back in 2008 however with the current changes in the mining sector including the review of the mining legislation, it deemed necessary to organize another workshop this year so as to match with the current changes in the sector. Priority areas covered during the workshop were on how best to establish revenues from the mining sector, protection of the environment and how the sector can support local economic development particularly including employment of the local in large scale mining.

The presenter insisted that role of media and civil society organizations in influencing positive products from the mining sector for the country's development is very crucial. He expanded that Revenue Watch Institute builds the capacity of the media on how to raise important questions that can at the end maximize the benefits to Tanzanians from their extractive resources of oil, gas and minerals. But also the institute targets to improve the capacity of civil society organizations on the areas related to policy and financial aspects of the mining sector.

Mr. Silas Olang' the coordinator for RWI in Dar-es salaam said that RWI as a non-profit policy institute and grant making organization, RWI promotes the responsible management of oil, gas and mineral resources for the public good. RWI believes that effective revenue management, citizen engagement and real government accountability; natural resource wealth can drive development and national growth. RWI provides the expertise, funding and technical assistance to help countries realize these benefits. Currently the institute is piloting efforts to expand its work to parliamentary oversight of resource revenue management driven by the postulation that transparency and accountability are engaged active and informed oversight of government management of the extractive sectors. It is evident that legislatures are a vital link between extractive revenues flowing to the state and the allocation and use of those funds for the public benefit.

WORKSHOP NEXT STEPS:

Revenue Watch Institute will be conducting the same nature of training come January or February, 2010, the focus will however be on Oil and Gas.

Revenue Watch Institute in collaboration with Policy Forum will also host an international meeting of all its pilot projects on April/May 2010.

Application for the first window of Small Grant Facility from Revenue Watch should be sent before end of the year 2009.

PF secretariat.