Lawmakers in spotlight over mining

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Dar es Salaam. The spotlight is once again on policymakers and the corridors of power within government as major legal hurdles continue to be a blight on Tanzania’s multi-billion dollar extractive sector. Now nearly two years after the promulgation of milestone laws to regulate the sector that has faced criticism from various quarters for ‘underperformance’, debate rages on on what the authorities could have been done better to maximise potential.

In July 2015, the National Assembly endorsed the Petroleum Act of 2015, the Oil and Gas Revenue Management Act and the Tanzania Extractive Industries (transparency and Accountability) Acts, even as pressure intensified from stakeholders who asked the government to shelve the bills to allow for further consultations.

In the same year, then-President Jakaya Kikwete also assented to the Tanzania Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative Secretariat (TEITT). This is a multi-stakeholder initiative that was formed to increase transparency and accountability in the extractive industries.

Yet one-and-half years since, a general feeling of dissatisfaction is still the common denominator among the major stakeholders of the extractive sector. A ‘plethora of legal gaps’ that policymakers are being accused of sitting on, leaving the country counting...