

Vice President Boakai Launches LEITI 3rd Report

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Vice President Boakai holds a copy of the 3rd Report

Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai Launches LEITI 3rd Report And Incentivizing Report

The Vice President of the Republic of Liberia, His Excellency Joseph Nyumah Boakai launched the Third (3rd) Report of the Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (LEITI) covering the period July 1, 2009 up to and including June 30, 2010, and the LEITI Incentivizing Study Report on Friday, December 16, 2011,

The program which took place in the P.A's Rib House Conference Hall brought together members of the diplomatic missions, ministers of Government, development partners and reporting companies. Formally launching the Report, Vice President Boakai called on all Liberians to support the LEITI process and used the LEITI report wisely.

The Third LEITI Report contains payments data supplied by seventy-

one (71) companies and revenues data supplied by five (5) agencies of the Government of Liberia. A total amount of US\$69,720,697 was reported by the seventy-one companies as combined payment of taxes, royalties, land/surface rental, and other administrative fees, while the five agencies of the Government reported total receipts of US\$71,896,113.

Total net difference of US\$2,175,416 or 3% of total receipts shows that the Government of Liberia reported more revenues than payments declared by the seventy one (71) reporting companies. The net discrepancy can be traced to fifty (50) companies for which the Government of Liberia reported receipts, but those companies did not submit payment data to the Reconcilers. The distribution of the discrepancy by categories is:

a. Companies that were active at the time of the Third Report but did not submit payment data to the Reconcilers. This category includes Pit Sawers and Small Scale Miners account for US\$1,868,011 or 86% of the net discrepancy.

b. Companies that discontinued their operations prior to the preparation of the Third Report account for US\$324,758 or 15% of the net discrepancy.

c. Companies that submitted payment data but had differences between their payments and receipts declared by the Government on their behalf account for US\$17,327 or -1% of the net discrepancy.

Total number of reporting companies increased from sixty four (64) in LEITI Second Report to one hundred-twenty one (121) in the Third Report, accounting for 89.1% favorable change. Total amount received by the Government also increased from US\$35,425,230 to US\$71,896,113 during this period and accounts for 103% change.

SECTOR	AMOUNT PAID		AMOUNT RECEIVED	
	AMOUNT	PERCENT	AMOUNT	PERCENT
Mining	\$37,082,120	53%	\$38,382,860	53%
Forestry	\$11,504,265	17%	\$12,177,453	17%
Agriculture	\$12,098,270	17%	\$12,299,858	17%
Oil	\$9,036,042	13%	\$9,035,942	13%
TOTAL	\$69,720,697	100%	\$71,896,113	100%

LEITI MSG Sanctions Non-Compliant Companies

The LEITI MSG has imposed sanction of US\$ 1,000 each on fifty companies that did not submit payment data/template during the preparation of the 3rd EITI Report for Liberia. The report covers July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2011. This is in line with LEITI MSG Regulation of 2009.

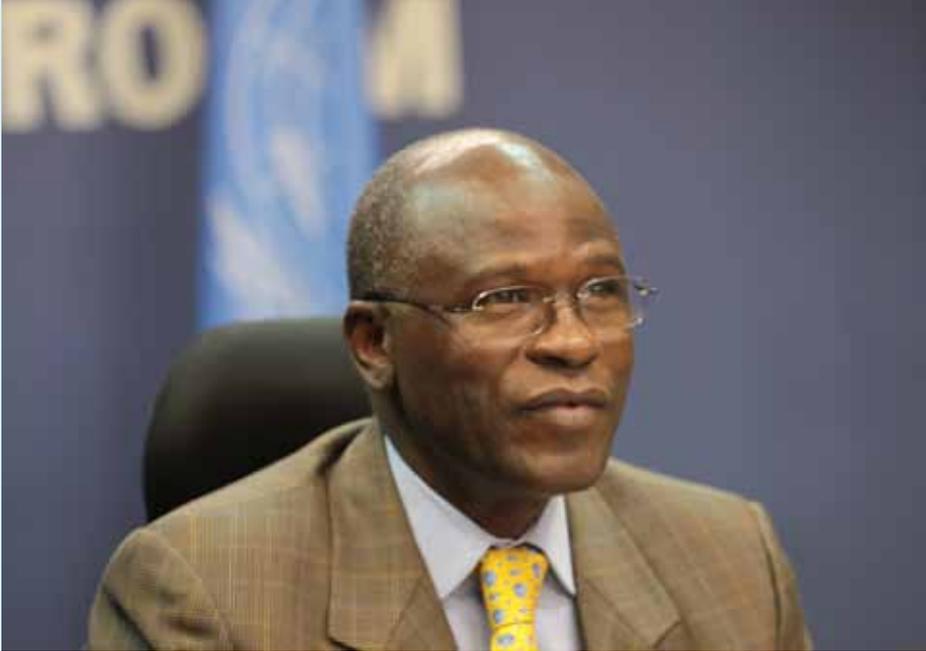
LEITI Newsletter

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Moustapha Soumaré, Acting SRSG,
United Nations Mission in Liberia
Photo: Staton Winter/UNMIL

UNMIL Collaborates With LEITI in the Dissemination of its 3rd Report

The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) has consented to assist the LEITI in the dissemination of its Third Report. UNMIL has agreed to airlift staff of the Secretariat, MSG members, representatives, and senators, who are expected

to form part of the delegation, to counties that are not easily accessible by road. Specifically, UNMIL will be airlifting the LEITI Team to Maryland, Grand Gedeh, Grand Kru, and Sinoe Counties.

Nationwide dissemination of LEITI

Reports is a regular exercise of the Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (LEITI) conducted on an annual basis. The purpose of the exercise is to ensure that citizens throughout Liberia are knowledgeable about revenues generated by the Government from companies operating in the oil, mining, agriculture and forestry/logging sectors in exchanged for their natural resources and how they as citizens can demand better used of these revenues.

This year's dissemination has been divided into four (4) regions with Gbarpolu, Bomi, and Cape Mount placed in Region I; Rivercess, and Grand Bassa placed in Region II; Nimba, Bong, Lofa and Margibi in Region III; and Sinoe, Maryland, Grand Kru, Grand Gedeh, and River Gee in Region IV to be assisted by the UNMIL Civil Affairs.

The dissemination exercise is expected to be held at designated locations in each county with adequate time allotted for interactive discussions.

LEITI Holds Fourth (4th) MSG Retreat

The LEITI on Saturday, February 4, 2012 organized and held a one-day Multi-stakeholders Steering Group Retreat to formulate its two-year work plan. The Retreat, which was funded by GIZ and held in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County, brought together over thirty participants, including members of the LEITI MSG, Dr. Francisco Paris, Regional Director for Liberia at the EITI International Secretariat, Honorable Gbezohngar M. Findley, President Pro-tempore of the Liberian Senate, Honorable Roosevelt G. Jayjay, Minister of Lands, Mines & Energy, Mr. Charles Cole, Acting Superintendent of Grand Bassa County, journalists, and other participants.

At the retreat, the MSG revised the draft three-year work plan to refocus its priorities on programs and activities that would ensure that the LEITI is adequately prepared for the 2014 EITI Validation. On the basis of such priorities, the period of the revised work plan was cut back to two years. The work plan is an update and builds upon the current LEITI work programs and sets out a series of benchmarks to ensure that Liberia will have the incentives for continuing, mainstreaming,



Participants at the retreat

and improving EITI implementation. The work plan aims at (1) producing a robust capacity building program to strengthen the capacity of the reporting entities and LEITI stakeholders; (2) regularity and quality of the reporting process; (3) ensuring a demand driven LEITI Report; (4) improving MSG Governance; (5) regularity and quality of communicating the LEITI;

(6) road map for implementing the LEITI Act; and (7) strengthening, consolidating, and deepening LEITI implementation.

The Retreat was facilitated by Tove Strauss, one of the consultants hired to conduct the study.



Mr. Samson S. Tokpah, Head of Secretariat



Mr. Konah D. Karmo,
Deputy Head of Secretariat

LEITI Gets New Head and Deputy Head of Secretariat

Following nearly three months of leadership vacuum in 2011, the Secretariat of the Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (LEITI) embraced the appointment of a new Head and Deputy Head.

Those appointed include Mr. Samson S. Tokpah and Mr. Konah D. Karmo as Head and Deputy Head of Secretariat, respectively.

Messrs Tokpah and Karmo were appointed by the Multi-Stakeholders Steering Group (MSG) of the Liberia Ex-

tractive Industries Transparency Initiative effective November 1, and December 1, 2011 respectively, following a competitive recruitment process by a committee of individuals and institutions comprising Cllr. Negbalee T. Warner, Sis. Mary Lauren Browne of the Catholic Archdiocese of Liberia, Mr. Joseph K. Acqui, I of the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC), and Mr. E. Barthan Nyeswa of the General Auditing Commission (GAC), and FAWUL.

Mr. Tokpah assumes this responsibility with background and experience in operations improvement, NGO operations, financial management, banking, and

academia. Up to his appointment he served as Senior Budget Analyst at the Novant Healthcare and Instructor of Economics at Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, North Carolina. He holds a Bachelor's of Science (BSc.) in Economics (Magna Cum Laude) from the University of Liberia, a Masters of Business Administration (MBA-Finance), Masters of Arts in Economics from Kent State University, Ohio, and a Six - Sigma (Green Belt) Certificate in operations improvement.

Mr. Karmo, who until recently served as Accountant at LEITI, comes with additional skills in banking and operations. He brings a wealth of knowledge in donor fund management, grant and proposal writing and a keen sense of commitment to the job. He is a product of the University of Liberia with a bachelor's of arts degree (BA) in Accounting.

Both men bring to their respective offices the dedication required for the effective stewardship of the LEITI Secretariat in achieving its objectives, and continuing the gains made by Liberia in setting a model for EITI implementation globally.



Partial view of the
Resource Center

Resource Center on extractive sectors established at LEITI Secretariat

The LEITI Multi-stakeholders Steering Group (MSG) with funding support from GIZ has established a Resource Center containing materials on resource governance at LEITI Secretariat. The Center was launched on February 29, 2012

by the German Ambassador Dr. Bodo Erich Werner Schaff. The Resource Center provides increased access to information and expand knowledge on resource governance in Liberia.

In Liberia the number of stakeholders

with access, expertise and knowledge on the extractive sectors is limited thus having a gross impact on informed opinion and decision-making in these sectors. Due to low internet connectivity and an almost non-existent book market, stakeholders can hardly access up-to-date scientifically-based information. The Resource Center at LEITI Secretariat shall include a range of publications related to mining and extractive governance issues in Liberia and Africa. It will also include publications on laws, regulations, scientific publications, documentations by research institutes and NGOs, The World Bank Group and international partners around the keywords such as of "mining in Liberia and West Africa", "resource curse", "conflict resources", "corporate social responsibility in the mining sector", "Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative" etc.

The Resource Center is opened to the public in particular journalists, civil society, Liberian and international researchers, government officials and parliamentarians and serves as a point of reference for the general public.



Participants at the LEITI workshop

Workshop with Reporting Companies & Line Ministries/Agencies of Government

In an effort to enhance the capacities of key staffers of line ministries/agencies and extractive companies in the EITI reporting process the LEITI Secretariat planned a one-day technical workshop on Thursday, January 19, 2012 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm in the Conference Hall of Musu's Sport, Congo Town.

The workshop which brought together over fifty (50) representatives from the oil, mining, agriculture and forestry sectors, as well as representatives from every line ministries and agencies of government cover

under these sectors, focused on making staff fully understand the reporting guidelines and revised LEITI Templates in preparation of the 4th EITI Report for Liberia.

During the workshop, participants raised concerns about fees paid to some autonomous agencies of government such as the Liberia Maritime Authority (LMA), Liberia Civil Aviation Authority (LCAA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and bond fees paid to the Ministry of Lands, Mines & Energy (MLME). The companies stressed the need for the LEITI to capture

these payments in the LEITI Report, taking into consideration the huge sum of monies paid.

Companies were also cautioned against the use of multiple Tax Identification Numbers (TINs). Mrs. Juanita Bropleh, Head of Data Capture at the Ministry of Finance, informed all that the Revenue Code of Liberia provides that each company carries a single TIN, which is issued only by the Ministry of Finance. She said that companies found in possession of more than one TIN will be fined US\$1,000.00.

Also presenting at the workshop was the Director of Revenue and Audit at the General Auditing Commission (GAC), Mrs. Nyounweah Tamba. Mrs. Tamba named several pitfalls to be avoided so as to have the LEITI Templates attested to by the GAC. One of the main pitfalls to be avoided is the failure of line ministries and agencies of government to maintain proper documentation of payments made by extractive companies. This is critical for independent verification between the Ministry of Finance and the line ministries and agencies of government by the GAC.

The new Head of Secretariat reminded reporting companies to have submitted template attested by an auditor, timeliness and accuracy of their reports.

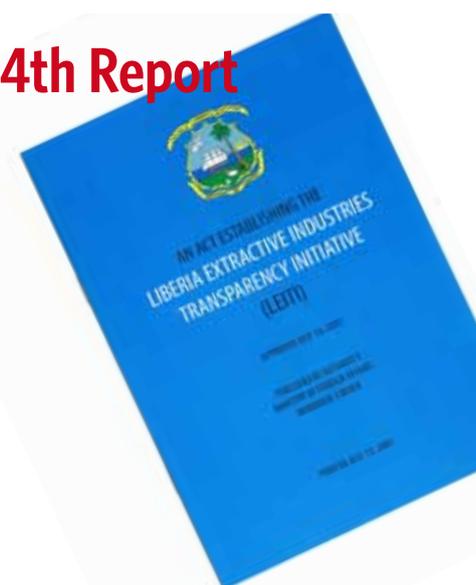
The LEITI Fourth (4th) Report is expected to be launched by December, 2012.

Preparation for LEITI 4th Report Gets Underway

The recruitment of Reconciler for the preparation of LEITI 4th Report is in progress. Currently, seven (7) firms have submitted Expressions of Interest (EOI) and a panel constituted to evaluate these EOIs.

The recruitment process is being spearheaded by the Project Financial Management Unit (PFMU), Ministry of Finance. There are ongoing discussions with the General Auditing Commission (GAC), line ministries and agencies on the development of a comprehensive database of all extractive companies.

Notably, the MSG has approved the following material threshold for the 4th



Report: Mining - US\$ 15,000; Forestry - US\$ 10,000; Oil - US\$ 200,000; and Agriculture - US\$ 30,000. There were no threshold set for in-kind contributions.

The 4th Report is expected to be published by September 2012.

EPA, Maritime, Liberia Civil Aviation to be included in LEITI Reporting

The LEITI MSG has agreed to include payments/fees collected by other ministries and agencies of government by oil, logging, mining, and agriculture companies. Specifically, the MSG agreed to include payments/fees collected by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Liberia Maritime Authority, Liberia Civil Aviation Authority, National Port Authority, etc in subsequent LEITI Reports.

The Secretariat has been holding talks with these relevant agencies of government to foster collaboration in this direction.

**Christmas is a time for giving.....
LEITI Staff identifies with widow**

As the saying goes, Christmas is a time of giving, so was the case with members of the LEITI Secretariat during this Christmas season. Staff members were encouraged to put a smile on the face of a family during the Christmas season, the true meaning of Christmas. Based on a lottery selection, a widow from the Paynesville Community, around the vicinity of the Deputy Head of Secretariat, Mr. Konah Karmo was selected to be the beneficiary of the Christmas gift.

Basic household items such as food, toiletries, and cash were delivered to the widow who thanked the LEITI for the gift and thanked God that she could be remembered at such a time of the year.

LEITI has a baby!!

Congratulations to Konah and Catharine Karmo for a new addition to their family. Mr. and Mrs. Karmo gave birth to little Noel Conan Karmo on December 27, 2011 at the Kingdom Care Medical Center, Paynesville, Duport Road. Little Noel is the second child of Mr. Konah D. Karmo who is the Deputy Head of the LEITI Secretariat.

Congratulations!

Birthday



February 15 was the natal day of one of the LEITI staff, Mr. George N. Dennis. Mr. Dennis is one of the pioneer staff of the LEITI, whose work with the Secretariat dates back to 2008 when the Secretariat was being established. Mr. Dennis who previously served as Office Assistant has now being promoted to the position of Accounts Assistant. George obtained a Bachelors Degree in Accounting from the University of Liberia in 2010.

Congratulations George!

Improving Technology

LEITI revamps webpage



The LEITI has revamped its website (www.leiti.org.lr) to support its communication strategy. LEITI has also established its social media presence on

Facebook and Twitter. Please follow us to participate in discussions around Liberia extractive sectors.

Outgoing Chair and Co-chair hail, as LEITI welcomes New Chair and Co-chair

It is with mixed feelings that the LEITI family bids farewell to its outgoing Chairperson Honorable Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, Co-chairperson Honorable Roosevelt G. Jayjay and Senator Gbezohng-ar M. Findley who represented the Government of Liberia on the LEITI Multi-stakeholders Steering Group over the past years.

They have all been called to serve the Liberian people in other areas and capacities, but we are grateful for their contributions to the success of the EITI process in Liberia. You have all championed transpar-

ency and accountability in the extractive sectors at every opportunity in your various capacities. We say a big thank you!

We are equally excited to welcome our new Chairperson, Honorable Amara M. Konneh, Minister of Finance and Co-chairperson, Honorable Patrick S. Sendolo, Minister of Lands, Mines & Energy to the LEITI family. We believe with your stewardship, we will breach new grounds in strengthening transparency and accountability in Liberia's extractive sectors.

LEITI Head of Secretariat makes acquaintance

Since assuming leadership as Head of Secretariat of the Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (LEITI) on December 1, 2011, Mr. Samson S. Tokpah has notably held meetings with several institutions all geared towards fostering collaborations in further strengthening the EITI process in Liberia. During the period under review, Mr. Tokpah held meetings with Dr. Bodo Sheft, German Ambassador to Liberia; Madam Anyaa Vohiri,

Executive Director Environmental Protection Agency; Hon. Binyah C. Kesselly, Commissioner Liberia Maritime Authority; Gunteo Nooke and Franziska Trogen, German Chancellor Personal Representatives to Africa; Francis Kai-Kai Chief of Civil Affairs, United Nations Mission in Liberia; Moustapha Soumaré, Acting SRSRG, United Nations Mission in Liberia; representatives of the Libeira Civil Aviation Authority, etc.



Head of Secretariat Fateful Experience

December 23, 2011 started just fine. I arrived at the LEITI Secretariat around 8:00 am from a good night rest. We have agreed to sponsor a family in need during the holidays. So, out of a lottery we picked a widow to visit and share the joy of the holidays. All six staff of the LEITI Secretariat jammed into a World Bank purchased Toyota Prado, marked LEITI-1, and drove to Duport Road where we greeted a widow with food, household supplies, and cash. She was in awe and amazement. She explained how she had recently lost her son and that life had become so hard. To her, our visit was a good and timely gesture. By the time we boarded our car to leave about 40 minutes later, at least half my team had teary eyes. We then drove about 3 miles north east to a local hospital to see and welcome Mr. Noel Conan Karmo. Noel was born on December 22, 2011 to the union of the Deputy Head of Secretariat, Konah and his lovely wife, Catherine. So by midday I was feeling good about myself and team!

We arrived at the office around 12:30 pm. Konah and I hurried for a meeting at the Ministry of Finance with Mr. Bernard Jappah to discuss LEITI balances under EGRIP/World Bank funding. By 2:00 pm I was back at the office meeting with staff to look at a few priorities while I was away. By 2:45 pm I was riding with Emmanuel (Driver assigned to LEITI-1) to the Roberts International Airport (RIA) to catch a flight to Charlotte, NC. I had agreed with my family that I would be with them for Christmas, particularly to see my angels, Stefie and Sam, perform at church on Christmas morning.

Hnede, LEITI's Administrative Manager texted around 3:00 pm to find out if road conditions were suitable for travel. I replied that everything was well and I would be at the airport shortly in time for my flight. Her concerns stemmed from the growing tension around Monrovia over compen-

sation for vacation workers. There were reports of demonstrations, road blocks, looting and damage to both government and private properties in downtown Monrovia and Clara Town. As we approached the ELWA Junction by way of Congo Town few minutes later, Emmanuel suddenly stopped the car in moving traffic. I asked what was wrong and he pointed ahead to a crowd of about 100 angry youths moving towards us. They were throwing rocks, sticks, and anything they could lay hands on. Emmanuel suggested we turn around and use the SKD Road to go around the mob. That seems to be the decision of every driver around us. He made a U-turn but by the time we got at the SKD Junction a bottle neck of cars ensued. Chaos erupted. Emmanuel suggested I get out and run to safety while he maneuvers to get the car away. I got out and started running with rocks falling all around me. I used one of my carry-on bags to shield my head.

Instantly, I realized Emmanuel's suggestion to stay behind and secure the car was foolhardy. I went back to get him and realized that he was nowhere around. I then made my way to a makeshift booth where coincidentally he was standing looking around for me. Evidently, he got out of the car the minute I did. Smart!

The mob passed through like a tornado leaving it's footprints for everyone to remember. The road was littered with rocks and debris. Cars were damaged and LEITI-1 was no exception. The back windshield, side-view mirror and back-seat window (driver side) were broken. Dents from falling rocks were seen on the car. The hood was slightly opened. The rocks used to break the windows were still in the car. My other carry-on bag with personal effects and office documents placed in the back seat was taken away. I realized it was almost 4:00 pm and Delta Airlines would start to check-in her passengers shortly.

The last time I was in Monrovia prior to my 2011 visits was August 2000. Phen-phens (motorcycles) were rarely seen in Monrovia then, least to be seen as primary means of transport. By now they were all over the place, yet I could not fathom how anyone would get on them without a helmet. I needed to get to the airport. I stopped a phen-phen and he charged US\$10 to take me to Roberts International Airport (RIA). Our new route went through SKD Blvd, Somalia Drive, Paynesville Red-light, Harmon Field, Duport Road, Rehab Road, and RIA Road. Navigating through Paynesville Red-light (behind Milad R. Hage Complex) was the scariest. It was extremely congested, and going through there means rubbing against too many people. It is also haven to many hardcore criminals. The driver suggested I keep every visible belonging concealed. I tucked the only carry-on bag I had left between us and concealed it with my shirt. I was left with a plain t-shirt to cover my body. I became visibly nervous and uneasy but the guy kept on reassuring me that he will get me to the airport. Once we were out of the Paynesville Red-light area and onto Duport Road the driver asked that I increase the fare from US\$10 to US\$15. I asked why and he said the new route was longer and that he had to use "technique" to get us through the Paynesville Red-light area. I still don't know what sort of "technique" he was referring to but I agreed and was glad we had come this far.

When he stopped to refuel, about 5 miles from the Rehab/RIA Junction, I got off trying to find another means to get to the airport but to no avail. I got back on and asked if he could increase the speed as we were going about 45 miles per hour. He promised he would but realizing it was probably the 100th time asking, that was as fast as that engine could go!

We made it at the airport and I handed him a US\$20 bill. I did not ask for refund; I was glad to be at the airport. I whisked to check-in and was nearly late. I ran into a few colleagues who instantly saw the anxiety and exhaustion over me. Chris Sorkpor of the Project Financial Management Unit/Ministry of Finance, whose car was also damaged on Broad Street, provided solace and encouraged me to continue to remain faithful to country.

The experience was a good one. Why? It helped me understand the gravity of the challenge we face as a country, and strengthened my resolve to contribute my very best to the reconstruction process. Secondly, I realized the ones riding phen-phens (motorcycles) cherish their lives as well.....they are simply making the most of the cards dealt to them.

