

# MINUTES OF THE EMERGENCY CALL MEETING OF THE LEITI MULTI-STAKEHOLDERS STEERING GROUP

LEITI CONFERENCE ROOM • OLD BUREAU OF THE BUDGET BUILDING • REDEMPTION ROAD, MONROVIA  
MONDAY, JULY 4, 2011 AT 12:00 NOON

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## **PRESENT**

### GOL

Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan	Minister, MOF/Chair LEITI MSG
Gbehzohngar M. Findley	Senior Senator, Grand Bassa County
Moses D. Wogbeh, Sr.	Forestry Development Authority
E. Ekema A. Witherspoon	Ministry of Internal Affairs

### CSO

Alfred L. Brownell	Chairman, Green Advocates & PWYP representative
Morgana M. May-Cole	GODIMWUL

### Private Sector

John S. Deah	LTA
Monique Cooper	BHP Billiton
Karl Cottrell	Chevron Liberia
Esiaka B. Konneh	Miners & Brokers Association of Liberia

## **IN ATTENDANCE**

Myer W. Saye	UNDP
Betty Mends-Cole	BHP Billiton
Edward S. Kamara	FDA
Juniata Bropleh	MOF
Jomaxim P. Jolo	MOF/Large Tax Division
Matthew G. Joe	NTCL
Kofi A. Ireland	UNMIL Civil Affairs
Paolo Nastasi	UNMIL Civil Affairs
Peter Kluczny	GIZ
Chea B. Garley	Ministry of Agriculture
Tharam Z. Quaye	Green Advocates
Sarah Blackwell	Green Advocates
Dave J. Seneh	Liberia Labour Congress

### LEITI Secretariat

Sayon Henry Yaidoo	LEITI
Konah D. Karmo	LEITI
Hnede L. Berrian	LEITI

The LEITI MSG held its 3<sup>rd</sup> Emergency Meeting on Monday, July 4, 2011 at 12:00 noon in the LEITI Conference Room to address key issues concerning the launch of the 3<sup>rd</sup> EITI Report of Liberia, Recruitment of the Head of Secretariat (HOS) and Deputy HOS, Tenure of the current HOS, The 4<sup>th</sup> EITI Report of Liberia and Current financial challenges concerning the Secretariat.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson of the LEITI MSG, Hon. Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan.

## **INTRODUCTION OF KEY ISSUES BY THE HOS:**

### **I. Launch of the 3<sup>rd</sup> EITI Report of Liberia – three (3) issues have stalled the launched of the 3<sup>rd</sup> EITI Report of Liberia, namely:**

- GAC Disclaimer
  - It was explained by the HOS that the Reconcilers had written, informing the Secretariat that the GAC Report is a separate document from the Reconciliation Report therefore should be treated separately.
- Amount Due Column
  - The current template was presented and approved by the MSG
  - It was also agreed that the mandate to include the amount due column be included in the Reconciler's TOR for the preparation of the 4<sup>th</sup> LEITI Report
- Response from line agencies and ministries of Government to the GAC Disclaimer
  - The Report from the line agencies and ministries of Government should have been collated and summarized by the Secretariat to serve as a rebuttal to the GAC Report
  - If it is the Reconcilers opinion that the GAC Report is separate, why did they make reference to it in their reconciliation report?
- **Decision**
  - The Secretariat writes line agencies and ministries of Government to check their system/records and other documents and confirm the level of contact with GAC on the audit process. The deadline of Wednesday, July 6, 2011 given to respond to letter.
  - The Secretariat to collate the responses/findings from the line agencies and ministries of Government and write GAC, copying MSG members no later than Thursday, July 7, 2011.
  - The Secretariat should check its files for all GAC related documents
  - Finally, the Secretariat should arrange a meeting/audience with the GAC to discuss these issues. Those forming part of the meeting with the GAC include, Mr. E. Ekema A. Witherspoon, Atty. Alfred L. Brownell and Mr. John S. Deah.
  - If it is established that the GAC Report is not valid, the Reconciler will be mandated not to make reference to it in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Report as is been done
  - If the report is valid, the Reconciler will be mandated to include the responses from the line agencies and ministries of Government as appendix to the Reconciliation Report.

## **II. Tenure of current HOS and the recruitment of Head of Secretariat and Deputy Head of Secretariat**

- The HOS informed the MSG that his contract ends on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July and that the period requested for him to hold on also ends the 31<sup>st</sup> of July. Additionally, he has ten days annual leave which he would like to take commencing 18 – 29 July 2011. That means his last official day of work with the LEITI will be the 15<sup>th</sup> of July 2011.
- After a brief discussion about the possibility of extension, the HOS asserted that if he will have to stay on, he will have to be paid.
- The Chair requested that the HOS be tolerant pending the recruitment process.
- On the recruitment process, the MSG constituted two groups of MSG members to form part of the short listing and interview panel for the HOS and DHOS. Those nominated were:

### **Short listing Members**

1. Hon. Moses Wogbeh, Sr. – Managing Director FDA, representing GOL
2. Mr. John S. Deah – Liberia Timber Association, representing Private Sector
3. Mrs. Morgana May-Cole – GODIWUL, representing Civil Society
4. Mr. Myer W. Saye – UNDP, representing Development Partners

### **Interview Members**

1. Hon. Gbehzohngar M. Findley – Liberian Senate, representing GOL
  2. Ms. Monique Cooper – BHP Billiton, representing Private Sector
  3. Atty. Alfred L. Brownell – PWYP, representing Civil Society
  4. Mr. Kofi A. Ireland – UNMIL Civil Affairs, representing Development Partners
- Committee Members should contact PFMU to begin the entire recruitment process

## **III. Payment Due column on the template**

- The representative of Civil Society, Atty. Alfred Brownell raised the issue of the Reconciler breach of its contract with the LEITI for refusing to include this column on the template. He explained that the matter was of concern and that the MSG should look seriously into this.
- Following explanation by the HOS and discussion by the MSG, it was agreed that:
  1. The Secretariat write the Reconcilers on the importance the MSG attaches to this part of the report, and that they officially conclude the part-2 of the report, which is the amount due column.
  2. The Secretariat should also inquire from the Reconcilers on the status of this part-2 and when they intend to conclude this portion of the report.

#### **IV. Fourth EITI Report of Liberia**

- The HOS presented the current situation of the 4<sup>th</sup> LEITI Report and there were no comments.

#### **V. Current Financial Challenges**

- Due to the World Bank inability to pay for the 3<sup>rd</sup> LEITI Report, there was a shortfall to the total cost of the reconciliation report- US\$108,200 in the operational budget. This amount was not budgeted for and therefore the current financial challenges. US\$43,280 has already been paid to the reconcilers and the balance of US\$64,820.00 is still due.
- The HOS confirmed that the financial situation for 2011/2012 is well in placed.
- The HOS was asked about his added value and what he has brought to the organization regarding bringing in additional funding. The HOS response were:
  1. He personally arrange for the full amount for the MSG retreat which cost above US\$10,000
  2. He negotiated with Development Partners to cover the full cost of the 5<sup>th</sup> EITI Global Conference in Paris which amounted to above US\$20,000
  3. He negotiated with the AFBD for about US\$400,000
  4. The HOS and Accountant negotiated with the Budget Bureau to double the operational budget from US\$200,000 to US\$350,000
  5. He inherited a budget of about US\$400,000 and is leaving it with about a million dollars.

#### **VI. Next Meeting**

The next Emergency Meeting was scheduled for Friday, July 15, 2011. Key on the agenda will be the status of the recruitment process and feedback from the GAC meeting and follow up letters.

#### **Meeting adjourned**