

NEITI develops corrective action plan to enhance Nigeria's EITI implementation

...Orji

The Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI), says it has developed a Corrective Action Plan to address issues identified in its validation report by the global Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). It said the corrective action plan had been shared with EITI International Secretariat outlining concrete steps to enhance Nigeria's implementation of the EITI Standard. Dr Orji Ogbonnaya Orji, the Executive Secretary, NEITI said this in Abuja while briefing the newsmen on the status of the EITI implementation in Nigeria. It can be recalled that a delegation from EITI International Secretariat had visited Nigeria in January to officially communicate the validation outcome to the government. Global EITI was established with the objective of transparency and disclosing payments and revenues from extractive resources. The global institution has made significant progress in facilitating openness through the entire processes in the resource extraction value chain. Orji, however, said the briefing was necessary to address important developments since after the EITI Mission in Nigeria.

"Meanwhile, as part of the follow up actions to the EITI delegation visit, NEITI has developed a corrective action plan to address the issues identified in the validation report. "For the avoidance of doubt, Nigeria's corrective actions will focus on improving our ranking on Stakeholders' Engagement, which include: Government, Company and Civil Society Engagements as well as Multi Stakeholders' Governance. "Other requirements are Contracts and licence allocations and Licence Register Contracts. "Already, our strategy on improving stakeholders' engagement has yielded very positive results. We now have the NSWG in place with the SGF chairing the NEITI Board," he said. He said one major message the EITI International Mission communicated clearly to our government was the urgency to reconstitute the NEITI NSWG (Board) which was

dissolved on June 19, 2023. President Bola Tinubu had on April 22, approved reconstitution of a 15- member National Stakeholders' Working Group (NSWG) for NEITI. The executive secretary said to reaffirm Nigeria's highest commitment, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Sen. George Akume was announced as the

Chairman of the NSWG. "Other members of the new NEITI Board (6th NSWG) include; the Executive Chairman, Federal Inland Revenue Services (FIRS), Zacch Adedeji representing government and the Group Chief Executive Officer, Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC Ltd.), Malam Mele Kyari representing Companies, among others. "I wish

to clarify that it is a 15-member Board, no more, no less as provided by law. As Secretary to the Board and NEITI Executive Secretary/CEO, I remain on a five-year single term, no more, no less as provided by law. "NEITI is following with interest but from a distance, the ongoing independent process by Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to elect their representative on the Board. "While we commend the painstaking efforts from the CSOs constituency, we hope this will be completed very soon to enable them take up their rightful position waiting for them on the reconstituted Board. "For this to happen, I appeal and call on the civil society to close ranks and bury their

differences. NEITI is and always will be their institution ready and open to work with all CSOs as important partners in the EITI," he said. Orji, while commending the larger CSOs on the support it had received from them in areas of partnership and collaboration, he said that its relationship with the media had been impressive, especially on information dissemination and public enlightenment efforts. He reassured stakeholders, international partners and the global EITI that no stone was being left unturned in ensuring that at the next validation, Nigeria would score the maximum points of 100 in its assessment.



THE PRESIDENCY
NEITI Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative

