

**OPENING STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS
AND NATURAL RESOURCES, HON. GEORGE MIREKU DUKER
(MP) AT THE LAUNCH OF THE 2020 MINING
AND OIL/GAS GHEITI REPORTS
AT THE AIRPORT WEST HOTEL
ON TUESDAY, 6TH MAY 2023**

The Chairman,

The Minister of State, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning,

Other Ministers Present,

Members of Parliament Present,

The Co-Chair, Ghana EITI,

The Project Coordinator, Ghana Landscape Restoration and Small-Scale
Mining Project,

Members of the Ghana EITI Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG),

Development Partners,

Members of the Diplomatic Corps,

Civil Society Organizations,

The Media,

Invited Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

All Other Protocols Observed.

It is once again time to sit and witness another unveiling of reports that seeks to deepen transparency initiatives of Ghana's extractive governance architecture. It is a privilege to address you on behalf of my sector Minister, Hon. Samuel A. Jinapor, MP with acute nostalgia for my days at ISODEC where we mostly dedicated our efforts on ensuring the sustainability of the Ghana Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (GhEITI).

The Ministry is proud and happy to be associated with the EITI, which creates a credible multistakeholder platform for the partners to promote and also reflect on how Ghana is progressing towards managing its extractive industries sector in a transparent and accountable manner.

It should be noted that it is in this context that, Ghana, through our Ministry which is responsible for mining, signed on to the EITI, some 20 years ago, in 2003 as the first country to do so with respect to mining. Other countries may have signed on then, but only in respect of oil and gas. It is no wonder that, recognizing the Initiative's focus on championing broad based development through the extractives, the country again signed on to the EITI with respect to its oil and gas in 2010 when sub-sector activities commenced.

It is also a key reason why, through the Ghana Landscape Restoration and Small-Scale Mining Project, the Ministry has provided financial support in the preparation of the Reports for 2020 which we are about to launch.

Ladies and gentlemen, through the Ministry, the Project is also supporting the EITI secretariat to design, print and distribute 1000 copies of the reports we would be launching, including a braille version to ensure that all visually challenged persons can access and read the reports.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, I am informed that in addition to objectively reconciling and documenting the revenue flows from the extractive sector to government, these annual reports provide a comprehensive overview of Ghana's efforts at managing our extractives, notably, minerals and oil & gas.

I will like to assure all stakeholders that government, through the Ministry of Lands & Natural Resources, has only one goal in managing and regulating the country's mineral and other natural resources under its authority; that is, to ensure their responsible extraction and utilization for sustainable growth and development and for the benefit of our nation and its citizens. I therefore believe the publication of these reports are also in furtherance of the African Mining Vision (AMV), which is geared toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

I wish to commend immensely the role of the Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) of the Ghana Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (GhEITI) and its collaborators, including Development Partners, for assiduously working towards ensuring publication of these reports since Ghana signed on to the EITI. The collaborative extractive industry players need to be mentioned for their noble efforts in facilitating implementation of initiatives, programmes, and strategies for adopting the EITI standards to ensure an effective utilization of Ghana's natural resources for the benefit of all. This aligns with and is at the core of the mandate of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources.

Distinguished audience, again I am informed that after their launch today, opportunity would be provided for stakeholders to delve into the findings

of the 2020 EITI reports. As we do so, it is crucial to acknowledge the collective efforts and collaborations that have been instrumental in achieving the milestones highlighted. As indicated earlier, I am sure that, the reports will not only highlight the revenue generated from our extractive industries but also shed light on the measures taken to promote good governance, reduce corruption, and foster social and economic development by managing Ghana's natural resources.

In recent years, we have witnessed substantial improvements in our resource governance framework, resulting in increased transparency and accountability.

This notion is backed by the **Resource Governance Index** framework developed by the Natural Resource Governance Institute in which as of their 2017 report, Ghana's gold mining sector scored a total of 56 out of 100 points where poor management of mineral and economic rents were rife. In the recent 2021 report, Ghana scored a total of 69 out of 100 points, a 13-point increase within four (4) years.

The 2021 report saw the revenue management sub-component rising from 37% in 2017 to 54%. The improvement in Ghana's resource governance index is as a result of some of Government's efforts, which includes the institution of the Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2018 (Act 982) and the Minerals Income Investment Fund Act, 2018 (Act 978) which really boosted Ghana's ratings on sustainable management of its mineral and economic rents.

Through the EITI process, we have engaged with local and international stakeholders, fostering partnerships that have contributed to the success we celebrate today. These reports are a testament to our commitment as

a country to adhere to global best practices, ensuring that the benefits derived from our natural resources are shared equitably among our citizens.

However, as we celebrate our achievements, we must also recognize the challenges ahead. We must remain steadfast in our pursuit of continuous improvement, as there is always room for enhancing our practices, strengthening regulatory frameworks, and addressing emerging issues. We must embrace innovation, technology, and sustainable practices to safeguard our environment while maximizing the potential of our extractive industries.

Mr Chairman, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, Ghana's mining policy document, adopted by the government in 2016, which is currently under review to incorporate contemporary developments, highlights the mining sector as one of the key economic pillars for stimulating growth on a strong and sustainable basis. In this sense, the major axes for the development of the mining sector revolve, in particular around the control of mining activities based on Ghana's mineral exploration potential; the adoption of robust geoscientific information systems; and appropriate investor-friendly legal and regulatory frameworks.

It is important to develop a well-structured mining sector that contributes towards attaining sustainable, strategic development objectives for Ghana. These should include contributing to poverty reduction, the creation of employment opportunities for youth and the initiation of economic growth in line with the Africa Mining Vision and Sustainable Development Goals.

In this regard, my Ministry as part of the 6-year Ghana Landscape Restoration and Small-Scale Mining Project (GLRSSMP) is strengthening the capacities of beneficiary agencies to adopt current technologies and innovative principles and create pathways to enable easy and timely disclosure of information to enhance EITI reporting in coming years. It is expected that work on the predominantly informal Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM) subsector, in this respect, will help to mainstream it.

Mr Chairman, in addition to the support for the Reports we are launching today, my Ministry, through the World Bank funding, is also supporting the GhEITI secretariat to (i) conduct an assessment of the illicit financial flow risk in Ghana's ASM sector, (ii) develop an ASM communication strategy for the GhEITI secretariat, (iii) conduct a scoping study to support the Ghana Revenue Agency revenue collection from the ASM sub-sector and (iv) conduct a study to map out all stakeholders/players in the ASM sub-sector to provide data to enhance ASM's contribution to Ghana's mineral revenues.

Mr. Chairman, a careful study of the 2017 and 2021 Resource Governance Index reports revealed that, though the Ghana gold mining industry precedes the discovery and production of oil and gas in Ghana with over a century, our oil and gas sector according to the reports scored higher than the mining sector. This was as a result of the institutionalization of much transparency and accountability measures in the oil and gas. I believe the time is very ripe to discuss if feasible, the enactment of the Mineral Revenue Management Act just as we did with the Petroleum Sector.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, Hon Minister, distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, to this end, I would like to express my gratitude to the hardworking men and women within my Ministry, particularly those directly working at the Project Coordinating Unit, as well as our esteemed extractive partners and stakeholders, especially the GhEITI-Multi-Stakeholder Group, for their unwavering dedication towards fostering the adoption and application of the principles of transparency and accountability in the management of Ghana's extractive industries. Your commitment has played a crucial role in our positive trajectory today.

As we launch the 2020 EITI reports, may it spur us on to greater heights as we recommit ourselves to further enhancing transparency, accountability, and sustainable development through the extractive sector. Together, we can build a future where our natural resources continue to catalyse inclusive growth, prosperity, and the overall well-being of our great nation Ghana.

I thank you