

**SPEECH BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF NEITI, DR ORJI OGBONNAYA ORJI
AT THE COURTESY VISIT BY DATAPHYTE FOUNDATION TO NEITI HOUSE ON
27TH MARCH 2025.**

1. It is my pleasure to welcome you to the NEITI House.
2. At NEITI, we recognize the invaluable role that organizations like Dataphyte Foundation play in advancing transparency, accountability, and data-driven governance in Nigeria's extractive sector.
3. Your visit today is not just a courtesy call; it is an opportunity for us to deepen our shared commitment to ensuring that data is prioritized and used efficiently.
4. NEITI's mandate is clear: to promote transparency and accountability in the extractive industries through data disclosure, policy recommendations, and stakeholder engagement. We are guided by the global Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) framework and the NEITI Act of 2007, both of which emphasize the importance of data-driven insights in fostering good governance.
5. In response to open data policy championed by the global Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, we have initiated a new Data Centre which we hope to launch in the next few months. We have concluded the first phase, which is laying the infrastructure. We are currently working on the software phase after which our staff will be trained to manage the centre.
6. In this regard, your work in data analytics, strategic communications, and digital technology aligns with our vision and presents opportunities for collaboration. Your visit today is not just a courtesy call; it is an opportunity for us to deepen our shared commitment to ensuring that data is prioritized and used efficiently.
7. At NEITI, we believe that data should not only be collected but should also be transformed into actionable insights that drive policy reforms and empower citizens. This is why we are keen to explore ways in which we can leverage Dataphyte's expertise in data visualization, real-time tracking, and open-source analytics to strengthen our work.
8. In today's digital age, data is a powerful tool for change. Dataphyte Foundation has made commendable strides in utilizing data technology to promote social accountability. The JETMinerals initiative, which provides a dashboard for tracking mining activities, is a prime example of how technology can enhance public understanding of the extractive sector.
9. As we seek to deepen transparency in Nigeria's extractive sector, there are several areas where NEITI and Dataphyte Foundation can collaborate effectively:
 - Data Integration and Analysis: NEITI is in the final stages of establishing a Data Center that will house industry reports and extractive sector data. Dataphyte's experience in real-

time data collection and analysis can enhance our ability to track government revenues, monitor compliance with fiscal policies, and identify discrepancies in resource management.

- **Public Engagement and Awareness:** One of NEITI's priorities is ensuring that our reports and findings are not just published but also understood by the Nigerian public. Dataphyte's expertise in strategic communications can help simplify complex industry data, making it more accessible to citizens, journalists, and policymakers.
- **Revenue Monitoring and Policy Advocacy:** NEITI's latest reports highlight significant gaps in revenue collection, with outstanding collectible revenues exceeding \$6 billion. By working together, we can ensure that this data is used to drive meaningful policy action, ensuring that extractive revenues contribute to national development.
- **Technology-Driven Governance:** NEITI is also committed to adopting technology-driven solutions to enhance efficiency and transparency in the sector. Dataphyte's innovative use of digital tools presents opportunities to modernize our monitoring systems, particularly in areas such as oil theft tracking, subsidy management, and environmental impact assessments.

10. This visit marks the beginning of a new era of collaboration between NEITI and Dataphyte. Our shared commitment to transparency and prudent financial management is critical to ensuring that Nigeria's natural resources are harnessed for the benefit of the citizens.

11. As we move forward, I want to reaffirm NEITI's commitment to fostering partnerships that strengthen governance and accountability in the extractive industries. We see Dataphyte Foundation as a valuable partner in this journey, and we welcome deeper engagement in research, policy development, and digital innovation.