

SPEECH BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, NIGERIA EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE (NEITI) Dr Orji Ogbonnaya Orji AT THE RECEPTION FOR THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF TERTIARY EDUCATION TRUST FUND (TETFUND) Arch Sonny Echono during A COURTESY VISIT TO NEITI HOUSE

Protocol

The Executive Secretary, Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), and your esteemed delegation, I warmly welcome you to NEITI House.

Distinguished guests, senior officials of NEITI, members of the press, ladies, and gentlemen.

It is a great honor to receive you and your team at NEITI today. This visit represents an important milestone in fostering collaboration between two critical government agencies committed to national development—one ensuring accountability and transparency in the extractive sector, and the other driving investment in education for national growth.

At NEITI, we strongly believe that education is a key pillar in the sustainable management of our nation's extractive resources. The prudent and transparent management of extractive revenues directly impacts the quality of education, particularly the funding of tertiary institutions, which TETFund administers.

Justification for Stronger Collaboration

Our agencies share a common mandate of ensuring that funds meant for national development are efficiently and transparently managed. Over the years, NEITI has closely monitored revenues accruing from the oil, gas, and mining sectors, particularly the Education Tax, which forms a major component of TETFund's financial inflows.

Our records indicate that between 2013 to 2022, over ₦2.2 trillion has accrued to TETFund from Education Tax, derived from extractive sector revenues.

Year Education Tax Contributions (₦ Billion)

2013 217.12

2014 248.78

2015 189.65

2016 157.32

2017 201.45

2018 234.89

2019 276.54

2020 198.76

2021 245.67

2022 229.34

These contributions total approximately ₦2.2 trillion from 2013 to 2022. The accrued revenue from our latest report in 2023 published last year is not added. In 2023, a lone accrued revenues to Tetfund from educational tax disclosed by NEITI Report stood at ...

However, significant concerns remain regarding the prompt remittance of these funds by liable entities, as well as the prudent and accountable management of the revenues to achieve their intended purpose.

Through closer cooperation, NEITI and TETFund can:

Ensure Prompt Remittance of Education Tax: NEITI will continue to track payments from oil and gas companies, ensuring that the correct tax amounts are remitted as and when due, in line with the provisions of the Companies Income Tax Act (CITA). We will also support TETFund in identifying and addressing gaps in compliance by extractive sector players.

Promote Prudent Utilization of Funds: By leveraging NEITI's expertise in financial auditing and revenue tracking, we can work with TETFund to enhance accountability in the disbursement and utilization of Education Tax funds. This will build public confidence in the tax system and ensure that tertiary institutions receive adequate funding for infrastructure, research, and human capital development.

Data Sharing and Joint Research: NEITI generates critical industry reports detailing revenue flows, tax contributions, and sector-wide challenges. Establishing a structured data-sharing mechanism between NEITI and TETFund will enhance decision-making, policy formulation, and resource allocation to critical educational needs.

And this is where we seek partnership and technical support from Tefund to complete the NEITI Data Center and our Library.

The NEITI Data Center seeks to achieve the following:

- Serve as a comprehensive repository for information on Nigeria's oil, gas, and solid minerals industries, encompassing all NEITI Annual Industry Reports from 2004 to the present.
 - Provide aggregated and disaggregated data formats for easy access by stakeholders, including civil society, media, industry companies, government agencies, and the legislature.
 - Offer data analysis services and training in data science to promote knowledge, innovation driven by research
- . Comply with the Open Data policy requirements under the EITI 2023 Standards, supporting NEITI's systematic disclosure program.

- Provide secure and efficient data management, enhancing dissemination and engagement within the extractive industry.

- Facilitate informed public debate and contribute to national planning and development through reliable data.

Project status:

The hardware infrastructure of NEITI Data implemented with integrated communications facilities were completed since August last year.

The next phase of the project will be to design and develop a suitable software applications that would adequately support data security storage; content management systems, data collection, data cleaning, integration, data analysis, etc including training for the team already assembled to manage the center. Although, NEITI has made provisions for this final stage in the 2025 budget, a Special Intervention from TETFund to complete this stage of the Data Center and the NEITI Library will be an important contribution to development of Data Science education and ongoing reforms in the oil, gas and mining industry. We therefore present this to you for consideration in line with your mandate.

Capacity Building for Transparency in Educational Financing: We propose a joint initiative to train TETFund stakeholders, tertiary institutions, and key policymakers on transparency, accountability, and public finance management principles in line with global best practices.

Monitoring and Evaluation Framework: By working together, we can create a framework for tracking the impact of Education Tax investments in Nigeria's tertiary institutions, ensuring measurable improvements in infrastructure, research, and academic excellence.

Conclusion

This visit marks the beginning of a new era of collaboration between NEITI and TETFund. Our shared commitment to transparency and prudent financial management is critical to ensuring that Nigeria's natural resources are harnessed not just for economic gains but for the long-term educational and human capital development of our country.

We at NEITI are fully committed to working with you to ensure that every naira generated from Nigeria's extractive industries and allocated to education is accounted for and used for the intended purpose.

I thank you once again for this visit, and we look forward to a productive partnership that will strengthen transparency, accountability, and the sustainable development of Nigeria's education sector.