

Welcome Address by Dr. Orji Ogbonnaya Orji, the Executive Secretary, Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) During Staff Induction Training, Held @ Sandralia Hotel, Abuja on 14th November 2022.

Protocols !

On behalf of the Board, Management and Staff of the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI), I am pleased to welcome you to the induction and training of the staff that were newly recruited by the agency.

2. This Induction Training is one of the crucial steps taken by NEITI to prepare and build the capacity of its newly recruited staff for the task ahead. The task of instilling a culture of transparency and accountability in Nigeria's extractive sector. The task of guaranteeing good and prudent management of Nigeria's extractive resource revenues for the benefit of all Nigerians. Evidently, NEITI has achieved reasonable success in promoting or carrying out these tasks.

3. While this induction exercise provides the inductees an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the NEITI system/work, its organizational culture, the Nigerian civil service procedures, the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and its evolving standard, and the extractive sector in general.

4. The recruitment itself is part of the ongoing efforts towards consolidating the NEITI's achievements as well as broaden its scope of operations and strengthen the existing workforce so it can effectively and timely respond to the increasing national and global challenges, the evolving EITI standard and emerging issues as well as the expectations of the various national reform initiatives such as the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA), the Companies and Allied Matters Act (CAMA) of 2020, etc.

5. NEITI's reinforcement or manpower need was equally emphasized by the manpower and capacity needs assessment that was conducted under the guidance of the National Stakeholders' Working Group - NSWG (the Board of NEITI) which not only identified the capacity gap in the NEITI secretariate but also encouraged recruitment of new staff.

6. Let me use this opportunity to thank those individuals and agencies who committed their time and resources to make this recruitment a success, as they have ensured that NEITI is well and fully equipped to carry out its extractive industry role watchdog in Nigeria.

7. I would also like to congratulate the newly recruited staff for being opportune to work for an organization like NEITI. I advise them to be good ambassadors, hardworking, committed, and contribute positively towards realizing NEITI's strategic goal, mission and vision.

8. This program is designed to expose you to the world of transparency accountability in the management of oil, gas and mining sector through the instrumentalities of NEITI/EITI. You will also be exposed to the objectives and mandates of NEITI, its national and international obligations

9. We have carefully assembled experts to expose you to all aspects of our operations, including the management and governance of the extractive industries. This training will also expose you to NEITI's core values, policies, ethics and philosophy.

10. Other areas the training will cover include: understanding the Nigerian Public Service Rules; Code of Conduct for Public Officers; Corruption and Anti-Corruption in the Workplace; Acceptable Standards of Behavior, Conflict of Interest, Whistle Blowing, and Economic and Financial Crimes in the Workplace.

11. You will also acquire knowledge on the NEITI Act; roles of civil society in the NEITI process; internal working process of the agency, its organizational structure; human resource manual; performance management system; functions and responsibilities of its various departments.

12. Finally, I would like to thank the Country Manager Anglophone Countries of EITI, Dr. Mike Uzoigwe for making time to be part of this event. I also want to say Thank You to the Chairman of NEITI Board, Mr. Olusegun Adekunle and other members of the Board for their wonderful leaderships and particularly for facilitating this event. My deep appreciation also goes to the NEITI Directors and Heads of Department, program facilitators and NEITI Staff for coordinating this event. Of course, I will not forget to congratulate all the Inductees once again.

13. Thank you all for audience.