

Colloquium on Assessing the Implementation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in the ICGLR Member States.



Hon. Richard Musukwa, Minister of Mines and Minerals Development on the middle (sitting) with other participants at the Colloquium in Lusaka, Zambia on 25th July 2019.

Lusaka, 25th July 2019: The International Conference on the Great Lake Region (ICGLR)'s Levy Mwanawasa Regional Centre for Democracy and Good Governance (LMRC), in partnership with the Southern Africa Resource Watch (SARW) organised a Colloquium on 25th July 2019 in Lusaka, Zambia. The Colloquium themed **“Assessing the Implementation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in the ICGLR Member States”** focused on the Republic of Zambia, which is one of the ICGLR Member States implementing the EITI.

The objective of the Colloquium was to present study findings on the Status of EITI implementation in Zambia in order to share experiences and lessons learned as well as discuss key challenges and options for redress in order to strengthen transparency and accountability of the extractive sector in Zambia and the Great Lakes Region as a whole.

The Guest of Honour at the Colloquium was Hon. Richard Musukwa, Minister of Mines and Minerals Development. Hon. Richard Musukwa stated that transparency and good management of natural resources has ripple effects on the lives of the people. He explained that if management of resources is not anchored on transparency and good governance, misunderstandings will always arise among the citizenry. The Minister informed participants of government's commitment to fighting corruption in the mining sector with vigor and without favour, in order for people to fully benefit from the yields of natural resources.

On the other hand, LMRC Executive Director Dr. Frank Okuthe lamented that the Great Lakes Region is rich in mineral wealth but unemployment and poverty levels are high.

Dr. Okuthe pointed out that unequal distribution of the proceeds of natural resources has been a major source of conflicts in most Great Lakes Member States. SARW Director, Dr. Claud Kabemba added that countries in the Great Lakes Region need to devise mechanisms that will create a reservoir of wealth from natural resources that are depleting.

As a prelude to the event a High Level Panel Discussion under the theme “Transparency and Accountability in the Extractive Industry - A factor for Economic transformation and Job creation in Zambia and the Great Lakes Region” was held. The objective of this Panel Discussion was to enable various stakeholders deliberate on how transparency and accountability in the Extractive

Industry can spur economic transformation and job creation in the Great Lakes Region and propose concrete policy options to address challenges in this area.

The Colloquium brought together experts on Natural Resource Governance from the Zambian Government, Civil Society Organisations, Private Sector, representatives of bilateral and multilateral organisations as well as Diplomatic Missions from the Great Lakes Region Member States accredited to Zambia.