

**Hon. Raphael G. C. Trotman, M.P.,
Minister of Natural Resources**

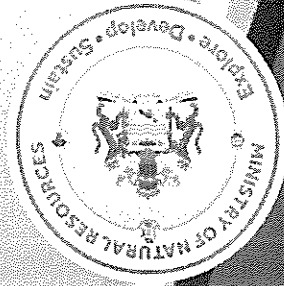
cordially invites you

to attend the Formal Launch Ceremony for the
**Guyana Extractive Industries
Transparency Initiative**
Multi-Stakeholder Group (G-EITI MSG)

At 9:00 am on

Wednesday, 15th February, 2017

in the Umana Yana, Kingston, Georgetown.



Remarks by Hon. Raphael G. C. Trotman, M.P.
Minister of Natural Resources
Guyana's Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative's Multi-Stakeholder
Group Launch

2017.02.15

Hon. Prime Minister, Mr. Moves. V. Nagamootoo, Hon. Dr. Barton U.A. Scotland, fellow Ministers of Government, Members of Parliament, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, equal partners in the EITI process - members of civil society and the natural resources industries, Mr. Jason Carter of the Carter Center thank you for accepting our invitation to witness the launch of Guyana's Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Multi-Stakeholder Group (G-EITI MSG) and more significantly, to participate in a new chapter of natural resource governance in Guyana.

The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) seeks to provide consolidated information on a country's extractive sector in accordance with International standards. Most importantly, it aims to reconcile key resource revenue flows paid by companies with those received by our government and often goes further to assess how these revenues are expended.

The G-EITI MSG is the primary body responsible for overseeing and coordinating the successful and effective implementation of the global EITI standards in Guyana. The body will provide and establish a framework to promote collaboration and consensus building in implementing the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in Guyana, accordingly. This grouping is a true demonstration of inclusivity and transparency as all stakeholders are represented at the table, Government, Civil Society and Industry. We in Guyana made a deliberate step to distribute these seats equally among the tripartite body with four members and equivalent alternates for each sector. The Government will be represented by High Level Officers from the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Finance and the Guyana Revenue Authority, and the G-EITI will be chaired by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

The Government of Guyana has approached the EITI process with a commitment to transparency and openness as well as a recognition, acceptance and deliberate effort to foster the truth that the resources of this country belong to every Guyanese in equal measure.

This EITI initiative has the potential to deliver significant benefits to the Guyanese economy through increased accountability and transparency, translating into more informed public policy debates and guidance on managing our resource endowments. It also has the potential to increase the confidence of business and enhance Guyana's reputation as a sound investment destination.

This process joins a suite of initiatives that this government has committed to, and is actively pursuing to strengthen public institutions and systems for managing resources

and revenues from the extractive sector. Other elements of this package include the EU-FLEGT programme for sustainable forest management, the Open Government Partnership and a Sovereign Wealth Fund which are all at varying stages of readiness.

The Ministry of Natural Resources having been identified by Cabinet to lead the process of implementing EITI has budgeted funds to support EITI implementation within Guyana, in particular for the establishment and functioning of our National Secretariat. The G-EITI National Secretariat will be managed by the Ministry of Natural Resources and its responsibilities encompass conceptual and organizational support for the Multi Stakeholder Group in order to ensure the successful implementation of all EITI requirements. The Secretariat furthermore will serve a public relations function, encouraging contact with the EITI International Secretariat, as well as fellow EITI Secretariats. This will be managed by Dr. Rudy Jadoopat, National Coordinator who was recently retained to support and guide the process towards EITI candidacy and thereafter, meeting Guyana's reporting obligations.

Efforts to identify a suitable standalone functional space for the EITI Secretariat have already commenced with advertisements being placed and expressions of interest received. The hiring of additional support staff for the secretariat is also an ongoing process and we are pleased to have a Deputy Coordinator of the Secretariat, Ms. Diane Barker as part of the team.

The Ministry of Natural Resources has made a commitment to pursue openness, collaborative endeavours and to maintain standards of transparency in every aspect of its work. This EITI process is only one part of this commitment. I take this opportunity to indicate publicly that the Ministry will in the coming weeks be embarking on an outreach programme across the length and breadth of this beautiful country to inform and engage the general public on all matters of importance and interest within the natural resources sector. The resources are yours, and you have a right to know and a responsibility to participate in its effective management.

Beyond visits to communities, the Ministry will be utilizing every form of media to connect with Guyanese whether through our soon to be re-launched website with updated information on EITI, Corporate Social Responsibility projects, updates on preparations for oil production, initiatives in the mining and forestry sectors and daily updates on world commodity prices, or through our Facebook question and answer segments and our radio and television programmes, the country can expect more timely and relevant engagements with the Ministry of Natural Resources.

It is an exciting time in our country and this launch of the G-EITI MSG takes us one step closer to achieving goals long set, and developing a culture of openness and unity of purpose that will only bode well for the development of a Guyana we can all be proud of, sustainable, prosperous and free. Next stop is EITI candidacy and the development of a road map to achieving compliance with global standards. We look forward to working with industry and civil society and our development partners to achieve these goals. We are in this process, truly together. Congratulations to the G-EITI, and thanks for your continued support.

Before closing I take this opportunity to single out, and praise, the untiring and unshifting efforts of Mr. Mike McCormack and Mr. Hilbert Shields – two champions in their own right who have been the foundation and pillars of the G-EIT, and the staff of the Ministry of Natural Resources – PS, and Ms. Christian.

Thank you.

Good Governance is Driving Force for Protection of Extractive Industries.

Remarks By the

Hon. Moses Nagamootoo

Prime Minister & First Vice President

Of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana

Launch of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative

Multi-Stakeholder Group (EITI MSG)

At the Umana Yana

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

For those who have been toiling in the fields for good governance, this is a culmination of those efforts which have brought us where we are today. It has been in fact the grass-root effort for many, many years in fact, decades. And I am pleased that we have among us, Jason Calder with whom I have labored over many years ago and then, with others, when he represented the Carter Centre to advocate and even to fight for principles of democracy and the restoration of democratic norms in Guyana.

So, from the roots of our democratic process we came to the front, to the top when we had a change of government in 2015. That saw a new process at a higher level being initiated and that process is how we could secure a fair share of our nation's resources and to utilize these resources for the benefit of all of our people and for the prosperity of our nation.

In this regard I want, from the top, to recognize the Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly as this new symbol of our democracy and the Separation of Powers within our democratic nation; Minister Raphael Trotman, who has been placed to head and perhaps to drive the democratic process of the extractive industry with the more recent emphasis being placed on oil and gas; and the ministers of Government, Minister of State Joseph Harmon, who has an important responsibility over the Ministry of the Presidency and to coordinate the efforts of all ministers together with the Prime Minister so that we are able to fulfill the mandate for which we were elected as a collective. So I am part of the process of the collective which also includes the Opposition Party in the National Assembly.

My task was to congratulate members of the stake holder group and to recognize that Guyana had embarked on a very long journey. I believe it started way back in 2012 when an MOU had been signed for Guyana to accede to the EITI and this process that has now come to a head. So no one

can claim responsibility as a single party or as a single group or a single government for the effort which, I said, was a collective effort.

We heard many stories being told about the “Dutch disease”, about “resource curse” and when we examine the countries that have suffered from those two afflictions, we realized that those countries would stand out among violators of human rights, violators of democracy and violators of the fundamentals of democracy which are, in fact, accountability and transparency.

So, when we signed on to whatever acronym we wise to be known, G-EITI-MSG, as a collective, patriotic, nationalist collective, it is to be able to ensure first and foremost, that our country having been blessed with all the resources in our hands, that we do not suffer from those afflictions.

The “Dutch disease”, I am informed, is characterized by countries that depend on a single export; and at their own peril underdeveloped or neglected to develop all the resources within the state and foster exports either from manufacturing or agriculture or fisheries or any other sector. And while I do not want to single out any particular country, we cannot help but feel the impact because it is literally in the backyard of Guyana that we find countries that are depending on one commodity for export and depending on everybody else for commodities for internal use and

necessities through importation. This shows that there is no balanced development, so that being blessed with strategic resources, could still result later as what has been described as a curse.

The “resource curse”, I am informed, also sides with another curse. I do not know which spawns which, but it seems to be the curse of corruption. We have to guide countries such as Guyana, where we can see the bright silver lining after years of dark clouds, away from this affliction by adopting healthy processes that will direct and govern the extractive industries. And I believe that the commitment that we make to upholding democratic values for Guyana must be a commitment to have a clean system of governance, from the top at a level of the government, at the level of the judiciary and at the level of the legislature and at the level of all other institutions of a democratic state.

I say this because there has been in the public domain a reaction to a process I had initiated for Constitutional Reform and questions have been raised as to whether the reform initiated is either honest or sustainable. I have taken part in constitutional reform processes since 1996 and no change to the Constitution is easy. There is no shortcut to achieving something that is significant and that will affect and change the lives of our people and the system under which we exist. In 1980, we were all excited by

the process of constitutional reform; and though we fought for a better constitution for a republican Guyana, we found that some of the changes in the 1980 Constitution placed some of the advocates for reform, against those very changes and some of those features that saddled our Constitution and our system with shades of authoritarianism and executive abuse.

Those have been entrenched and they are not going to be easy to remove. So, for those who think that constitutional reform can be achieved easily, our own history has shown that it is in fact a struggle and I believe that when this process started, we needed to be guided by a Steering Committee that would map out the scope of the reform, the intended reform, and we must be able to have along the road, perhaps an unending highway, sign posts of what might be achieved in the short, medium and long term. The Steering Committee is not the process; nor recommendations for reforms. It was an honest beginning to put in place a system where you can receive advice from your peers how to proceed and, having being tasked as Prime Minister with responsibility for Constitutional Reform and Governance, I can tell you here today, the day after Valentine's Day, sincerely as one could that I am serious about constitutional reform. It is going to become a bedrock upon which we build all these lofty edifices like the G-EITI, on

which the MSG will also mount its own monitoring, evaluating and advising on how our extractive industries can best serve our society.

And therefore, moving on, I want to also thank the UNDP for having come on board at the very initial stages last year or even before that, when I had conversations with Ms. Musa. I had told her that the process would require experts and consultants who could share the experiences from other countries. We did build some data bank from what happened in Malaysia, Mauritius, Fiji and South Africa. We did have an idea of how we could have transformed our old constitution in an earlier period. But more complex issues of ethnic involvement and the role of inclusiveness have popped up. Any new constitutionalizing has to deal with our diversity; to deal with the issue of participation; to deal with inclusiveness. It should aim at goals, in the same manner in which you have here a multi-stakeholder group, to achieve multi-party governance in a country such as Guyana.

So experts would be necessary and they didn't come here to monopolize or to lead the process. They came to find out, after consultations, how they could assist with technical personnel, and even to tap into donors from among some of us here like the ABC and other countries.

The next process would be to go to parliament to start the consultation with the opposition and civil society groups on the law that would set up the

mechanisms for constitutional reform. We can do this also with some alacrity. We can take the Constitution Consultative Reform legislation to parliament and to set up a group that would drive the evidence taking; that would drive the fan out to over a 100 communities, to listen to what people would want to see as changes in their constitution. This would be a very creative and very dynamic and very exciting process that we could see immediately ahead.

Side by side would be to have the strengthening of the integrity legislation and to have a process by which the chairperson of the Integrity Commission would be selected through consultations and not being the subject of any political dik tat.

It is awful to know that for several years you have a commission, to which persons in high offices should declare their assets, was headless – it was beheaded and it remains headless to this day. So we need a process by which we can have this important body reconstituted and to perform the functions for which it has been established to ensure that we do not have officials and others associated with officials, “interested persons”, benefiting from disproportionate wealth, benefiting from ill-begotten wealth.

We have a process where you aim to see Guyana becoming a rich country from the proceeds of extractive industries spanning from oil, gas, and our forest resources, from carbon credits and gold and other sections of the mining industries. When you look at that, you also see that there is a temptation for those who have access through personnel and other offices and companies, if not insulated, they would be dipping their dirty fingers into the cookie jar.

We need to strengthen integrity legislation in Guyana. I have now submitted some amendments to the integrity legislation to cabinet for its consideration. And we also like to see, that there should be promulgated in Guyana a Code of Conduct for office holders and for all other persons in public office. So we do not only say that we expect our leaders from the corporate, government and civil society, to be clean; we must set up the guidelines and we must build a fence to insulate them from being contaminated.

So, all these matters that I have decided to speak to outside of any notes are important and integrally related. So today is part of a dynamic effort that has its origin among those who have long fought for democratic norms and practices in Guyana.

We see that we are building a new structure, a new body that will ensure that our extractive resources are utilized for the benefit of our people. But you cannot have that if within the outer perimeter of our society you have sleaze, corruption and mal-practices; if you have violations of fundamental terms that protect contracts; if you have incestuous relationships between those involved Corporation and those involved in government. You have to create the institutional network that would prevent your country from being contaminated, particularly its governance system, or else everything else would fail. The guarantee for success, I assure you today, if all of us are stakeholders, all of us, as Martin Carter said, all are involved, all of us are consumed in the process or might be consumed. If we are not involved fully as watchdogs then we cannot guarantee that we are part of the stakeholder group.

Our commitment from the Government of Guyana is to be able to fulfill the lofty promises to the Guyanese people that we could build a democratic protection, that we could insulate ourselves by accepting and constitutionalizing for changes to our systems that would offer us protection.

I know that EITI has a long history by itself and that the principles that were enunciated in 2006, (I think “the 12 Commandments”) are called the

guiding principles for extractive industries. And among those I marked off as important were the sustainability of good governance with accountability and processes that are transparent. These are two of the watchwords that will pop up occasionally and regularly as government and other stakeholders reach agreement. You would find that questions would be raised and should be raised and must be addressed as to how the proceeds from extractive industries are to be accepted, and for what they should be utilised.

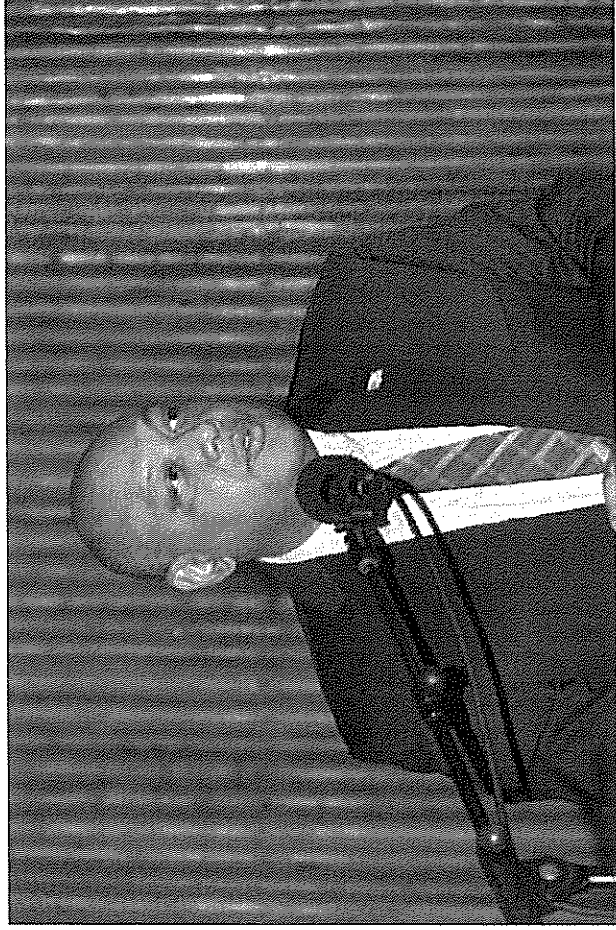
So today ladies and gentlemen, Mr. Speaker, Ministers of Government and other special invitees I wish to congratulate the members of the multi-stakeholders group, the G-EITI, that has been officially launched as the driving body of the extractive industry.

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Multi-Stakeholder Group launched ...to monitor Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative

E. Svetlana Marshall - February 5, 2017



AFC leader Raphael Trotman

A MULTI-STAKEHOLDER Group (MSG), which will effectively oversee the implementation of the Guyana Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (G-EITI), was launched on Wednesday by Prime Minister Moses Nagamootoo in the presence of Natural Resources Minister Raphael Trotman at the Umana Yana. The EITI is a global organisation of 51 member countries, which has subscribed to establishing, upholding and promoting the standards and tenets of good governance, transparency and accountability in the management of extractive industries. At its core, the EITI promotes the belief that natural resources belong to the people and are to be extracted and managed on behalf of the people; both for current and future generations.

The G-EITI-MSG is made up of a total of 12 representatives equally drawn from the government, the business community and civil society. The Natural Resources Minister explained that MSG will provide and establish a framework to promote collaboration and consensus-building in the implementation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.

"This grouping is a true demonstration of the inclusivity and transparency as all stakeholders are presented at the table, by that I mean Government, Civil Society and Industry," Minister Trotman said.

Here in Guyana, a deliberate effort has been made to distribute the seats equally in the MSG. He noted that Government will be represented by high-level officers from the Natural Resources Ministry, the Office of the Prime Minister, the Finance Ministry and the Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA). The G-EITI will be chaired by the Natural Resources Ministry.

"The Government has approached the EITI process with a commitment to transparency and openness as well as a recognition, acceptance and deliberate effort to foster the truth that the resources of this country belong to every Guyanese with equal measure," Minister Trotman said.

He told those present that EITI has the potential to deliver significant benefits to Guyana's economy through increased accountability and transparency, while simultaneously enhancing the country's reputation as a sound investment destination.

Minister Trotman added too that the process forms part of a menu of measures that Government has committed to in the strengthening of public institutions and systems to effectively manage the resources and revenues from the extractive sector. The other elements of the package include the European Union Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade Initiative (EU/FLEGT) programme, which focuses on Sustainable Forest Management, and the Sovereign Wealth Fund initiative.

It is the hope of the Natural Resources Ministry to have the EITI National Secretariat established by mid-year. Already, a coordinator has been appointed in the person of Rudy Jadoopat.

Meanwhile, Civil Society Representative, Curtis Bernard, in his remarks, said "The extraction of natural resources from Guyana's more than 350,000 square kilometres of sovereign terrestrial and marine space has provided significantly for our economic well-being."

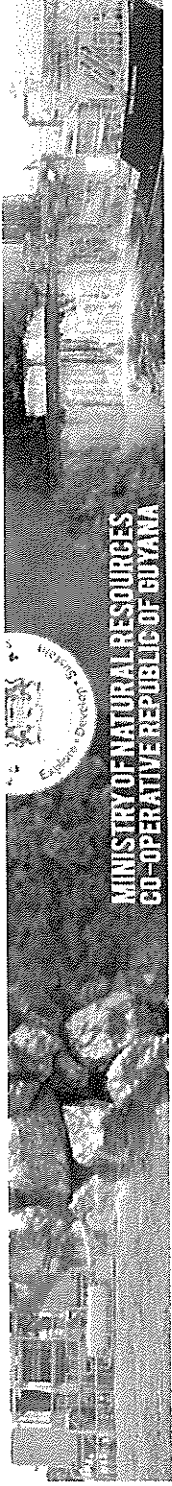
He said with the hydrocarbon industry on the rise, the economic footprint from the extractive industry will become even larger. As such, Bernard said transparency in the financial flows is important.

6/2/2017

Multi-Stakeholder Group launched ...to monitor Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative | Guyana Chronicle

"EITI is a proven means of achieving such transparency. The tri-sectorial governance mechanism of the EITI [in] which Government, Industry and Civil Society have equal status and decision-making power is exemplary in its potential to demonstrate innovative and inclusive governance." In the SGM, Civil Society Organisations will be represented by Paul Atkinson, Senior Councillor at Santa Rosa Village, Region One; Larry Carryl, a civil engineer with the Ministry of Agriculture, who has been involved in voluntarism and activism on Environmental issues over the last 10 years; Judy Nelson, a chemist at DDL; and Bernard. The industry representative, Hilbert Shields, also lauded the EITI platform. Currently, the ministry is in the process of identifying a building to house the secretariat, in addition to the hiring of additional staff. Members of the diplomatic corps, civil society and the extractive industry were in attendance, in addition to the Speaker of the National Assembly, Dr Barton Scotland.

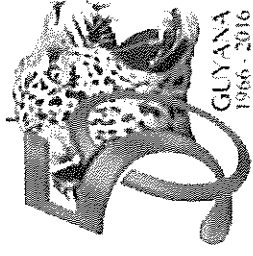
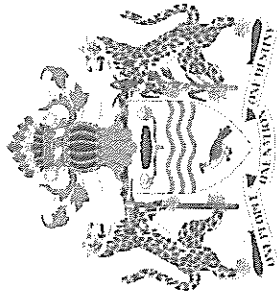
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The Ministry of Natural Resources wishes to advise stakeholders that the Government is desirous of establishing a Multi-Stakeholder Group to oversee the implementation of the Guyana Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (G-EITI).

The Multi Stakeholder group shall be comprised as follows:

Four (4) Government Representatives;

For further information please contact the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Ministry of Natural Resources

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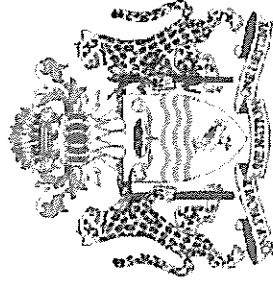
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- Four (4) Government Representatives;
- Four (4) Business Group Representatives; and
- Four (4) Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Representatives.

For further information please contact the Ministry of Natural Resources.