

GOVT GETS SH241B FROM MINING, OIL SECTORS

By Martin Kitubi

Government collected sh241.3b from the extractives sector in the 2020/2021 financial year, a report has revealed.

Of the total revenues, the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) report for Uganda, indicated that sh180.2b was collected from the oil and gas companies, whereas the remaining sh61b was generated by mining companies.

According to the EITI report, TotalEnergies E&P contributed the biggest chunk of the revenue, remitting at least sh110.9b to the Government.

In second position was Tororo Cement, which paid sh23.8b, followed by Wagagai Mining Company at sh12.5b in revenue to the Government.

In fourth position was the China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC), which remitted sh11.8b to the national coffers.

CNOOC is followed by Hima Cement with a sh6.2b remittance, while Oranto Energy paid sh1.6b and Armour Energy remitted sh1.2b to cap the top six entities.

The other top entities in revenue contribution to Uganda include Kampala Cement, which paid sh560m, Mota-Engil Engenharia e Construcão Africa with sh122m, Goodwill with sh111.3m, National



PHOTO BY MPALANYI SSENTONGO

Okaasai (left), Edwin Kanakulya, the compliance officer at UGEITI and Humphrey Asimwe, the CEO Uganda Chamber of Mines and Petroleum (right) during the engagement on EITI implementation in Uganda at Kabira Country Club yesterday

Cement Company with sh88m and Vira Alloys that contributed sh3.9m, in that order, completing the top 12 entities.

The details of the top mining extractives companies in Uganda are contained in the second EITI report that analysed data for the 2020/2021 financial year.

The report, released on June 30, 2023, was discussed yesterday during the private sector engagement in EITI implementation in Uganda

held at Kabira Country Club in Kampala. The EITI is an internationally recognised transparency body for the mining sector.

Members of the body, including Uganda, are required to submit performance reports on the resources, contracts and licences, production, revenue collection and allocation from the petroleum and mining sectors.

GOVT ON PERFORMANCE

Sidronius Okaasai Opolot, the

energy state minister, who was the chief guest at the event, said the release of such reports is part of the efforts by the Government to be transparent on revenues generated from the sector.

This, he said, is evidence that the Government is determined to make the sector better and also attract better investors to the country.

"This is our second report to the EITI as a country. You can already see that we are very transparent as a country. The

ABOUT EITI

In August 2020, Uganda was confirmed as a member of the Extractives Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI). Uganda is the EITI's 54th member and the 26th in Africa to join the body.

As an EITI member, Uganda now is required to disclose all information along the extractives industry value chain. The EITI requires member states to address issues of gender, environment, contract transparency and state-owned enterprises in the sector.

The agency also calls for understanding of procedures for the award of exploration and production rights, the legal, regulatory and contractual framework that apply to the extractive sector and the institutional responsibilities of the state in managing the sector.

For revenue allocation, EITI requires disclosures of information on revenue allocations. This is intended to enable stakeholders understand how revenues are recorded in the national budget.

Government is determined to make the extractives sector better for the country to benefit from the natural resources," Opolot said.

Transparency and accountability, he said, will also attract investment into the sector.

Opolot asked sector players to adhere to the call by the Government on value addition, adding that: "It will enable us create jobs here rather than exporting mineral ores abroad."

Saul Ongaria, a senior economist and national co-

ordinator of EITI in Uganda, explained that many entities were embracing transparency and that in the near future, many will disclose vital information about their operations.

Onesmus Mugenyi, an analyst and deputy executive director of Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment, said: "With transparency, we hope that the country will attract both local and foreign direct investment. We will also be able to create reasonable jobs for Ugandans."

By Gerald Tenywa and Jessica Nabukalu

The national population and housing census that was supposed to take place in August has been postponed to sometime next year, according to Godfrey Nabongo, the deputy executive director of the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS).

"It is not feasible to organise the population census in August. This is because of matters connected to readiness and procurement processes that cannot be concluded before August. We are writing to the finance ministry and Cabinet to give us another date," Nabongo said.

He was speaking yesterday during a press conference at Statistics House, which houses the UBOS offices in Kampala.

Nabongo said the national census, which was scheduled to take place from August 24-25, will not take place as expected.

"In the course of next week, the Government will release the new date," Nabongo said.

BACKGROUND

A decade ago, UBOS also conducted the 2014 census after a series of postponements. The national

UBOS postpones census to next year

PHOTO WILFRED SANYA



UBOS executive director Chris Mukiza (left) and Nabongo during a press conference at their offices in Kampala yesterday. (Scan image using Vision Digital Experience to watch video)

population census was supposed to take place in 2012, but was postponed to 2013, and eventually it took place a year later. The delay at that time was

attributed to a lack of funding from the Government.

Nabongo told journalists that UBOS has enough funding during the

question-and-answer session.

"In terms of money, it has enough," he said, adding that the money budgeted for the census has not changed and that UBOS is going to conduct the exercise.

Nabongo also said there were pre-census activities, pointing out that they were going to apply digital technology such as tablets, which are similar to mobile phones except that they have bigger screens.

Asked about the funding from the US to provide technical assistance to UBOS, Nabongo said they have been conducting capacity building for UBOS and that funding was a drop in the ocean.

"We were accessing the funding directly. The money was being used by a company from the US to build technical capacity, which has been acquired over the past 20 years," he said.

He added: "There was no funding that we lost from the US government. We have developed technical capacity in the health ministry to do what the technical team from the US was

funding."

He also said two years ago, a team from the US wanted to delay the survey for collecting data in the health ministry and the Government decided to proceed, avoiding loss of money that comes with the delays. Nabongo also said they are provided with different products to track the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, the African Agenda 2023, and the East African Integration Agenda.

UBOs released a statistical booklet relating to the achievements of the 2030 Sustainable Development agenda. Nabongo said the Government of Uganda has obtained funding through the World Bank to undertake the national population and housing census and that the rest of the funding has been provided under the National Information Technology Authority.

He also pointed out that the procurement of some of the equipment was going to be undertaken by the United Nations Development Programme, which would reduce the cost by about half on the open market.

Uganda's population was estimated at 34 million people, and currently the population is estimated at 45 million people. The population data is important for government planning.