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STATEMENT We Need To Know Owners Of Oil, Gas & Mining Contracts CSOs To Mahama

Updated on 11



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Ten civil society

<http://m.peacefmonline.com/pages/local/news/201605/278851.php>

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organizations have raised the alarm about the possibility of politicians hiding behind secretive, non-disclosure legislation to award oil blocks to themselves and have thus petitioned President John Dramani Mahama to cause the disclosure of the identities of persons behind the ownership of oil blocks.

In a letter addressed to the president, the civil society groups called on the president to commit to a 10-point anti-corruption agenda

They are also demanding an immediate action to avoid international sanctions from the Financial Action Task Force.

It comes barely a day before the president delivers an address at the global anti-corruption summit in the United Kingdom.

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Read statement
below

***Civil Society Anti-
Corruption Agenda on
Extractive Industries***

Civil Society
Organizations at a
Dialogue on Anti-
Corruption on
Extractive Industries
organized by the
Africa Centre for
Energy Policy (ACEP)
on the 9th of May
2015, as prelude to
the UK Anti-
Corruption Summit,
have called on the
Government of
Ghana to declare its
commitment to fight
corruption in Ghana
and in the extractive
industries in
particular.

The Dialogue
considered the
hotspots for
corruption in Ghana
and recommended
specific
commitments
expected of the
President of Ghana
to ensure that Ghana

takes bold steps at
eradicating
corruption.

The participants
called on the
President to commit
to a 10-point anti-
corruption agenda as
follows:

*1. An open and
competitive process
for awarding oil, gas
and mining
concessions*

*2. A mandatory
requirement for the
disclosure of oil, gas
and mining contracts*

*3. A mandatory
requirement for the
establishment of a
public register of
beneficial owners in
the extractive
industries and all their
associated interest in
Ghana and abroad.
This could be done
through a number of
planned legislations –
the Petroleum
(Exploration and
Production) Bill, the
Extractive Industries
Transparency
Initiative Bill or the*

Companies Bill.

4. A requirement for the criminal prosecution of public officials found to have engaged in conflict of interest during oil, gas and mining licensing and in the regulation of operations

5. The passage of the Right to Information Bill

6. The passage of the Petroleum (Explorations and Production) Bill

7. The Subscription to Open Data Standards across Ministries Departments and Agencies

8. Confirm Appointed Heads of Institutions in time to ensure their independence and security of tenure

9. Sign on to the Voluntary and Automatic Frameworks for exchange of information to address illicit financial flows

*10. Effectively
implement the
National Anti-
Corruption Action
Plan (NACAP) or
transform it into an
Anti-Corruption Law.*

These commitments should also be backed by timelines to enable citizens to hold the President to account. It was agreed that much of the commitment to fight corruption in the past has been mere rhetoric without timelines and clarity on actions to be taken.

It is our belief that our President who will be among world leaders to address the UK anti-corruption summit, will use this great platform to commit the government to an anti-corruption agenda that will lay the foundation for a transformative society in Ghana, in which official impunity, corruption,

and mismanagement
of public resources
will be stopped.



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