

HakiRasilimali Commends the Government for Transparency and Calls for More Openness

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HakiRasilimali, a Tanzanian civil society platform working on advocacy issues around transparency and accountability in the mining, oil and gas, on May 27, 2019 congratulated the Ministry of Minerals for demonstrating transparency on revenues obtained from the proceeds of minerals since the establishment of 14 mineral trading centers. This is a follow up of the Stakeholder meeting that was organized by the Ministry of Minerals and Chaired by His Excellence Dr. John Pombe Magufuli, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania in January 22, 2019 in the country. According to information provided by the Ministry of Minerals, the amount of Shillings 238 million was obtained as tax after a miner (small scale) sold a diamond for Sh.3 billion at the Shinyanga mineral center, witnessed by Deputy Minister of Minerals Mh. Stanslaus Nyongo.

“It is a historic event, in a short space of time since the introduction of these centers, their effectiveness is seen. It will also be good to expand the scope of transparency in the mining sector to include other minerals such as Tanzanite gold, nickel, and cobalt” said Mr. Semkae Kilonzo, Vice Chairman of the HakiRasilimali Board of Directors.

Moreover, in order to improve the overall transparency of the extractive sector, HakiRasilimali urged the government to provide adequate resources for the Tanzania Extractive Transparency Initiative (TEITI) in order to increase the effectiveness of the institution. In line with this, HakiRasilimali also advised the Ministry of Minerals to support TEITI’s human resources challenge so that it can effectively carry out its mandate as outlined in the Transparency and Accountability Act of 2015.

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“Ms. Racheal Chagonja, HakiRasilimali Coordinator, said: “For TEITI to be more effective, it needs to be strengthened structurally and its independence enhanced. Nonetheless, we congratulate the Government for its commitment by establishing and nurturing this ambitious transparency and accountability initiative for our country. We have strong confidence in the ability of Government and other stakeholders to make TEITI more effective.””

The platform also advised the government, through the Ministry of Minerals, to ensure that extractive contracts and beneficial ownership related to the mining sector are disclosed based on the fact that the primary basis for the establishment of TEITI was to promote and enhance transparency and accountability in the extractive sector.

HakiRasilimali expressed belief that these positive reforms initiated by President Dr. John P. Magufuli will benefit host communities and the public in general through access to commercial opportunities in the mining value chain and access to essential social services including hospitals, schools and other infrastructure.

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