

CSOs launch transparency campaign on mining revenue

By Guardian Reporter

CIVIL society organisations in the country have launched a coalition and transparency campaign dubbed 'Publish What You Pay' (PWYP), which will mainly focus on oil, gas, minerals, forestry and fisheries issues.

Tanzania is a least developed country with over 85 per cent of its 40 million people living below the poverty line despite being amongst the world's well-endowed countries in minerals, oil, gas, forestry and fishery resources.

A press statement issued in Dar es Salaam yesterday by coalition co-ordinator Babelwa Kaiza said the coalition comprised 21 institutions. He said the steering committee included members from Concern for Development Initiatives in Africa (ForDIA), Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), Lawyers Environmental Action Team (LEAT), Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA), Multi-Environmental Society (MESO) and the Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) in Tanzania.

It said the campaign was

likely to improve transparency and accountability in the extractive industries in the country. It would also look into issues of environmental degradation in the mining areas and the process of implementing the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI).

During the last ten years Tanzania has maintained a minerals export boom, with gold constituting 40 per cent of total exports in 2008, which could be regarded as an opportunity for the country to graduate from abject poverty.

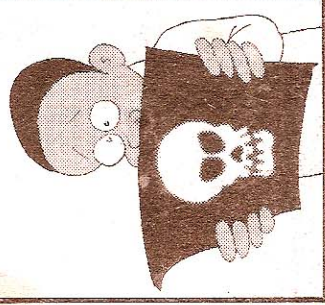
Tanzania was, until 2008, Africa's third-largest exporter of gold, although exports dropped to 50 tonnes during 2009. Even then the country is the fourth largest producer after South Africa, Ghana and Mali.

Tanzania had since 1997 failed to negotiate a fair-share mining regime, resulting in the country retaining only 3 per cent royalty charged on net instead of gross revenue.

According to the statement, the country has continued losing revenue due to excessive fiscal offers given to foreign mining companies.

Hamuliki

IT is x-ray like!



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