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**A COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE NATIONAL SUMMIT ON STRENGTHENING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND ADVOCACY FOR EFFECTIVE NATURAL RESOURCE IN NIGERIA HELD AT IBETO HOTEL, ABUJA, FEBRUARY 11, 2019**

**PREAMBLE**

A National Summit with the theme: *Mining in Nigeria: Issues, Challenges and Way Forward* was organised by the African Centre for Leadership Strategy and Development (Centre LSD) in collaboration with the Ministry of Mines and Steels Development under the project titled: *Strengthening Civic Engagement and Advocacy for Effective Natural Resource Governance in Nigeria*. The project which is supported by the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA) is being implemented in Ebonyi, Ekiti and Taraba states.

The summit which was held at Ibeto Hotel, Abuja, February 11, 2019 was attended by over 80 participants drawn from Civil Society, Ministry of Mines and Steel Development, state government, Miners Association of Nigeria, Women in Mining, artisinal miners from selected communities in Ekiti, Ebonyi and Taraba, operators and the Media had a presentation on *the Challenges of Cooperative Development and Organisation among Artisanal Miners in Nigeria*. This was followed by a robust interactive session. At the close of the summit, participants made the following observations and recommendations:

**OBSERVATIONS**

1.       The federal government was commended for its commitment to the development of the mining sector as evident in the Mining Roadmap as well as the N5 billion set aside through the Bank of Industry for the development of the mining sector.

 2.      The N5 billion provided by the government through the Bank of Industry is insignificant and does not show the desired seriousness needed for the anticipated growth of the industry to position it as an alternative to Oil.

 3.      Despite the N5billion fund set aside by the government no participating artisanal miner has been unable to access the loan due to the inability of mining operators and artisanal miners to fulfill the required obligation/conditions.

 4.     Absence of a reliable database of artisanal and small-scale miners in Nigeria is a challenge to the development of the mining sector.

 5.  Artisanal mining is a source of employment to about 500,000 people with over 1.2 million beneficiaries. Unfortunately, these ASMs do not do mining appropriately leading to environmental degradation with little or no remediation plan.

 6.     The informal nature of the artisanal and small-scale mining in Nigeria makes it very difficult for government to put into practice effective strategies, policies, and regulations for minimizing potential negative environmental and health impacts that are common amongst artisanal mining and miners.

 7.      There are deep concerns on inadequate collaboration and cooperation amongst relevant stakeholders.

 8.     Limited access to viable market and insecurity are major challenges hindering the development of ASM sub-sector in Nigeria.

 9.     Mining development in Nigeria is grossly hampered by lack of technical knowhow, access to geological information and availability of fund

 10.  There is dearth of research into new and innovative mining practices consequently operators make do with whatever is available which are usually not in the best interest of the industry.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1.       Federal government should allow partnership between state governments, communities and foreign investors to put into action the diversification and utilization of the mineral resources.

 2.      Mining operators and other stakeholders should support the formalization policy of the MMSD for effective mineral diversification policy.

 3.      To promote inclusiveness and faster development of the solid minerals sector, government should consider moving solid minerals from ‘exclusive’ to ‘concurrent’ list.

 4.     The Community Development Agreement that takes into consideration, basic community needs must be implemented by mining operators.

 5.      There is the need for MMSD to fast track the current mineral exploration project across the country to provide detailed geological information for mineral sector development.

 6.     There is the need to strengthen collaboration and cooperation among relevant stakeholders in the mining sector to push forward and address the challenges confronting the sector.

 7.      The MMSD should speed up the development of the reliable ASM database that is currently ongoing for future planning and development of the Nigerian mining sector.

**CONCLUSION**

Participants at the mining summit commended the federal government for the growing attention to the Solid Minerals sector and charged stakeholders to work together towards the development of the sector. They also pledged to work together and use the above recommendations to engage relevant stakeholders towards strengthening civic engagement and advocacy for effective resource governance in Nigeria.

**SIGNED**

1.       HRH Alh. Subairu Moh’d Sambo  -        Lamido of Gashaka, Taraba State

2.      HRH Eze Martin Nwali Oyibe         -        Ohabuenyi I of Ameka, Ebonyi State

3.      Engr. Auwal Ibrahim                   -        Miners Association of Nigeria

4.     Mrs. Titilayo Oni-Oladapo          -        Minerals Res. Dev. Agency, Ekiti State

5.      Mrs. Mary Saidu Bagu                -        Mining Multi-Purpose Group, Taraba State

6.     Monday Osasah                           -        African Centre for Leadership Strategy & Dev.