



Remarks for the Hon. Minister of State for Mineral Development & Champion of the Uganda Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, at the Press Conference held at Uganda Media Centre on 10th August 2023, in Kampala

Representatives of Government,

Members of the Private Sector,

Representatives of Civil Society Organizations,

Representatives of the Press and Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to this press conference which is aimed at informing you and creating awareness about the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), an initiative that has been adopted by Government to strengthen the management of the extractive industries in Uganda which primarily include petroleum and mineral resources.

As you are aware, Uganda is set to become one of the large oil producers in East Africa. This follows Government's discovery of commercial quantities of oil reserves estimated to be 6.5 billion barrels. Oil production is expected to commence in 2025 and to

that end, a number of infrastructure developments have been put in place in the Albertine Graben region to facilitate a smooth oil production process. These include among others, the development of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), Kabalega Industrial Park, Kabalega International Airport and oil drilling activities. These developments are all critical in fast tracking first oil production and this shows the level of commitment to the oil venture by Government.

Regarding the minerals sector, Uganda has favourable geological environment that hosts a variety of precious minerals/metals and industrial minerals. Over 15 million tonnes of gold at grade of 2gramms per tonne has been established at Alupe in Busia by Wagagai Mining Company in an area of 9 square kilometres. About 430 million tonnes of indicated resources of Iron Ore reserves has been established in the country with over 1 billion tonnes of inferred resources. At Kilembe Mines, reserves of 6 million tonnes at cut-off grade of 1.77% Copper were confirmed. Copper and Cobalt are critical minerals in making clean energy technologies for the current global transition to clean energy.

There are over 27 varieties of minerals that have been identified in the country including: beryllium, copper, cobalt, gold, iron ore, lead and zinc ores, lithium, nickel, columbite-tantalite, tin, titanium, tungsten, manganese, rare earth elements, uranium, bentonite, diatomite, graphite, gypsum, feldspar, limestone and marble, kaolin, phosphates, pozzolana, salt, silica sand and vermiculite.

These resources are all useful for industrial and economic development and therefore proper development of these resources could help the country generate revenue, drive industrialisation and create employment for Ugandans.

The government is undertaking necessary steps to promote further investments in discoveries and exploration activities in order to enhance the country's mineral potential.

To that effect, Government has continued to support the development of various mineral sector projects. These include among others, the commercial production of Rare Earth Elements in Busoga Sub-region where production is expected to start in 2024. There is over 300 million tonnes of indicated reserves of Rare Earth Elements and an additional 700 million of inferred reserves at Mukuutu-Buwaaya rare earth deposit. The project is one of the few clay deposits that contain high concentrations of heavy and critical metals necessary for strong magnets and other modern technologies that command high demand in the global market.

As a way of supporting the growth and development of Small Scale Mining activities, Government has taken steps to support the formalization of the Artisanal and Small-scale Mining (ASMs) sector. This has been done through encouraging the formation of associations and cooperatives within the mining communities. It is hoped that increased formalisation of the informal sector will

create more employment opportunities for Ugandans and increase Government's revenue.

Also, in order to strengthen the environment for the private sector to thrive, Government has taken measures to strengthen the legal and regulatory framework through enacting relevant laws such as the Mining and Minerals Act, 2022. This has enabled a fair and favourable business environment as well as the development of human and institutional capacity at the central and local government.

To complement the legal and institutional framework that is in place, Government joined EITI. The EITI is a global initiative that promotes transparency, accountability and other best practices to strengthen the management of extractive resources. The EITI Standard involves disclosures along the extractive industries value chain from contracts and license allocation to production, revenue collection and allocation, and social and economic spending for public benefit.

To date, Uganda has produced two (2) EITI Reports since joining the organization in August 2020. The first report was published in May 2022 while the second report was recently published in June 2023. Government is expected to launch the second EITI Report on the 15th September 2023. The launch will be a great milestone for Government and it's intended to create awareness and generate debate among all stakeholders. The findings of the report are

useful in strengthening the management of the sector and in the long run bring about benefits to the economy.

The EITI report will increasingly generate useful information on the developments in the extractive sector including the challenges and shortcomings related to governance and management of these resources along the extractive industries value chain. I therefore encourage the Press and the Public to take interest in reading the report for more information about the sector.

The Government of Uganda is committed to continued Transparency and Accountability in the extractive industry.

Finally, I take this opportunity to thank you all for participating. I also take the opportunity to thank the Uganda EITI Secretariat and other relevant stakeholders for supporting the EITI implementation process. We look forward to your participation at the launch of the second EITI report on **15th September 2023**.

I wish you all fruitful discussions and deliberations.

Hon. Dr. Peter T. Lokeris
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINERAL DEVELOPMENT