

**REPORT ON THE LAUNCH OF TWITTER SPACES TO DISSEMINATE THE EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES  
TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE 2<sup>ND</sup> REPORT.**

**BY**

**SOLOMON SERWANJJA**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM**

**TO**

**THE HEAD OF SECRETARIAT**

**UGANDA EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE**

**DATE: 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2023**

**Platform: Twitter Spaces.**

## Executive Summary

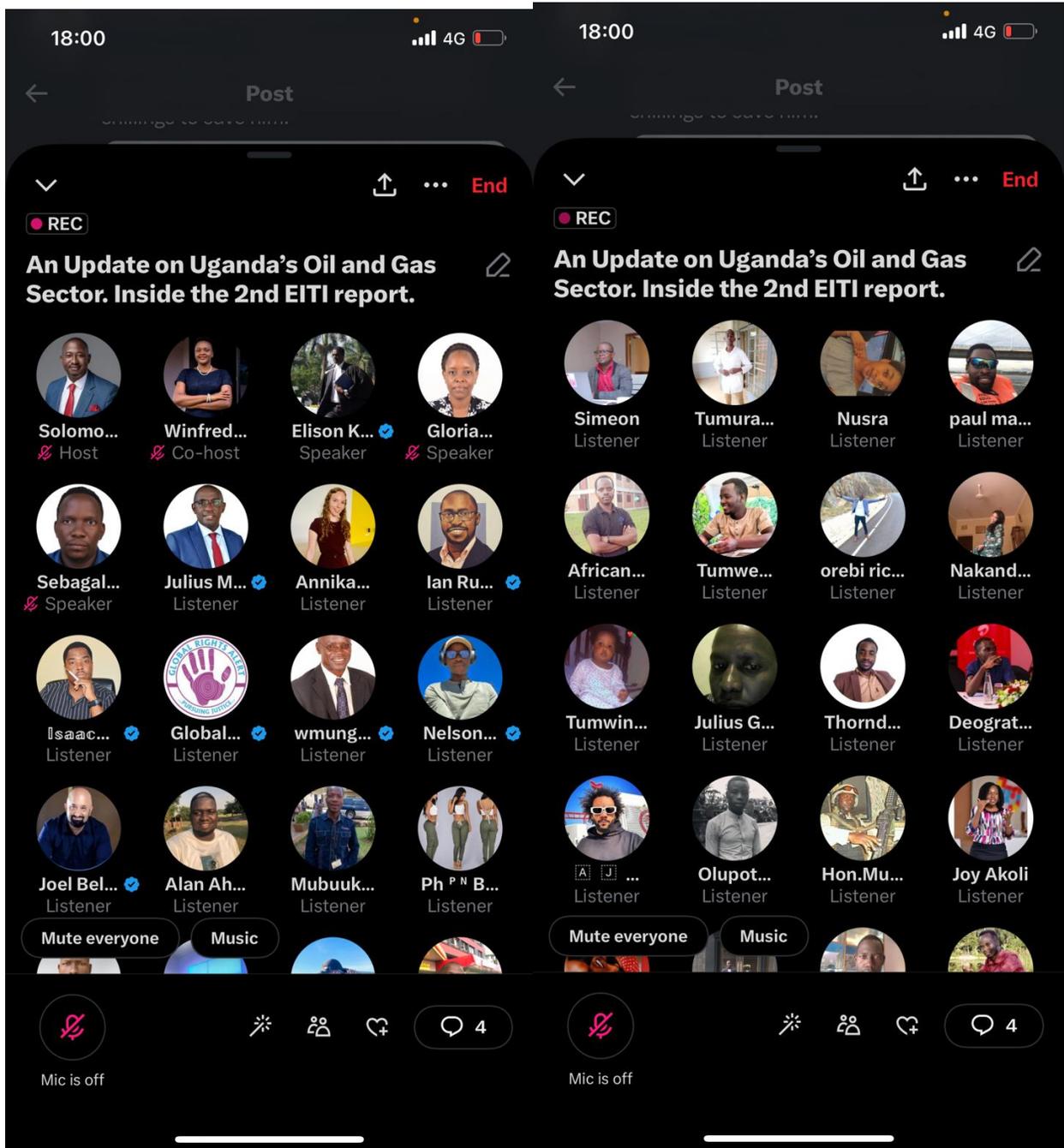
On 15<sup>th</sup> September, the Uganda National Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative released their 2nd report giving an account on the status of the oil, gas and mining sector, investments, revenue generated and received and royalties. The report casts a spotlight onto the extractive sector, looking at transparency in mining, oil and other natural resources, mainly to ensure that communities get maximum benefit from the activities and the revenues accruing. The report which was launched at the Kampala Sheraton Hotel attracted several sector players to discuss and debate several issues raised in the report.

As part of the dissemination of the report, Uganda Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative partnered with renowned investigative journalist and the Executive Director of the African Institute for Investigative Journalism Solomon Serwanjja to host an X (Twitter) Space conversation to draw in the virtual audience on the findings of the report. The space was hosted on 15<sup>th</sup> September on his Twitter account. Mr. Serwanjja has over 350,000 followers on Twitter, making this an opportunity to tap into his numbers to further share the report extensively. The space was 2 hours and attended by 1,100 people from across the world. It was attended by Gloria Mugambe, the Head of the Uganda National EITI Secretariat, Winfred Ngabirwe Executive Director, Global Rights Alert, Ellison Karuhanga, Oil and Gas lawyer, and Eng. David Ssebagala, senior Inspector of mines, Ministry of Energy.

The space was recorded and the link can be found [here](#).

The image is a promotional poster for an X Spaces event. At the top left, the 'X Spaces' logo is displayed. The main title 'UPDATE ON THE OIL AND GAS SECTOR' is prominently featured in white text against a background of an oil rig. Below the title, it says 'Inside the 2nd Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) Report'. The event is scheduled for '5pm - 7pm' on 'Friday, 15th September'. The host is identified as 'Solomon Serwanjja', ED of the African Institute for Investigative Journalism, with a circular portrait of him. A 'Speakers' section lists five individuals with their names and titles: Gloria Mugambe (Head, Uganda National Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Secretariat), Winfred Ngabirwe (Executive Director, Global Rights Alert), Ellison Karuhanga (Partner - Kampala Associated Advocates), Ali Sekatwa (Director for Legal and Corporate, Office for the Petroleum Authority, Uganda), and David Ssebagala (Senior Inspector of Mines, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, Uganda). At the bottom, there are logos for 'GLOBAL RIGHTS ALERT' and 'EITI Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative'.

# Highlights of the launch



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPACE.

### 1.1 Welcome Remarks

The opening remarks were given by Solomon Serwanjja who introduced the subject to the people on the space largely referencing the EITI report pointing out some of the findings of the report. Mr. Serwanjja was the moderator of the space. He also introduced the panelists.

### 2.0 Panelists

#### **Gloria Mugambe, the Executive Director of the Uganda National EITI secretariate**

Mrs. Mugambe detailed the key findings of the report, including the following:

Uganda is preparing for its first validation by the International EITI Secretariat in October 2023, a process that will assess the extent to which the country is complying with the requirements of the EITI Standard. Uganda's second EITI report would also be validated during this visit. She asked Ugandans to present their views and concerns to the international team, as this would enrich the validation process.

She also mentioned that the total revenues received from the extractive sector amounted to UGX 241.34 billion in FY 2020-21. Revenues collected by the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) accounted for 95.72% of the total revenue streams generated by the sector.

She highlighted the issue of contract disclosure, noting that the production sharing agreements signed with Oil and gas companies were currently not in the public domain. "The UGEITI MSG set up a Contract Disclosure and Legal Affairs Committee to facilitate engagements with the heads of government institutions and the heads of companies for discussions on how to achieve full contract disclosure" she added.

#### **Winfred Ngabiirwe Executive Director, Global Rights Alert**

Mrs Ngabiirwe raised the red flag on a number of issues in the mining sector. The following are the key highlights from her presentation.

The urgent need to disclose all contracts and licenses that have been granted, entered into, or amended as of 1st January 2021. "We call upon the Government of Uganda to expedite the process of publicly disclosing contracts and licenses that provide the terms for the exploitation of oil, gas, and minerals." she said.

The EITI report did not extensively address the impact of the mining projects on the environment. Reporting on the impacts of extractive industries on nature and biodiversity will trigger actions that enhance sustainable exploitation of natural resources. "We therefore call upon the government of Uganda to expand the scope of EITI reports to include, the impact of the mining works on the environment." she added.

The EITI Standard requires the full disclosure of beneficial owners of all extractive companies. Ms. Ngabiirwe emphasized that whilst Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) has established a Beneficial

Ownership Register, it should put in place an assurance and due diligence procedure to ensure reliability of the information declared by companies, and develop an online database.

**Ellison Karuhanga, Oil and Gas lawyer**

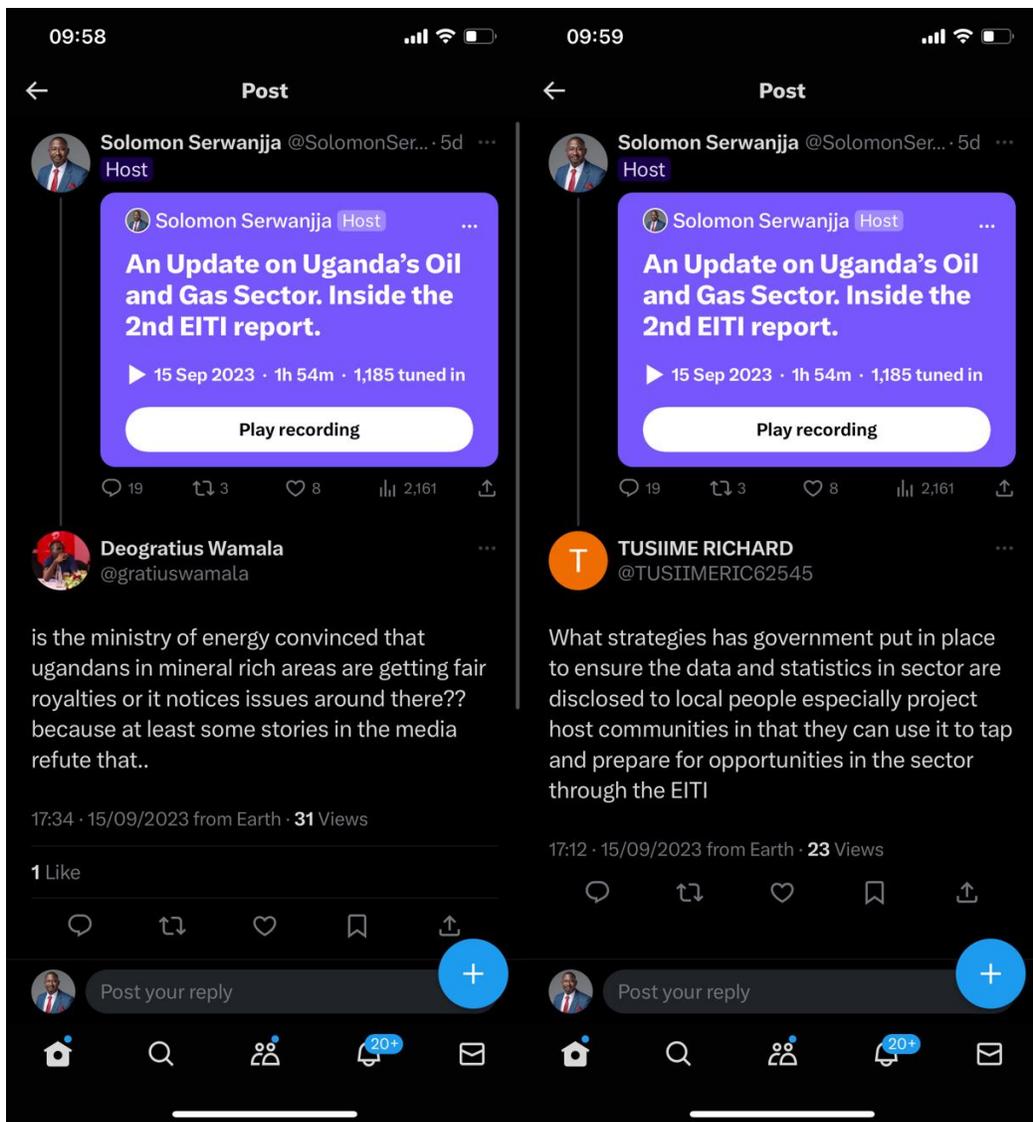
Mr. Karuhanga appreciated the EITI Secretariat for coming up with the second report which flashes the spotlight into the mining sector. He also appreciated the Secretariat for fast tracking the recommendations from the previous reports.

**Eng. David Ssebagala, Senior Inspector of Mines, Ministry of Energy.**

Eng. Ssebagala made clear the government's efforts to fully disclose all the information in the mining sector including publishing the content on the Ministry of Energy's platforms and website. He also elaborated extensively on gold mining in Uganda, noting that it was one of the country's leading exports.

**2.1 Plenary Discussion**

The twitter space provided a platform of opportunity for people to contribute to the discussion. There were 14 people who were given an opportunity to speak, each given about 5 minutes to contribute to the space.



#### 4.0 Conclusion

It was a great opportunity to further disseminate the findings of the EITI report and receive preliminary feedback from the wider public.