

PRESS RELEASE



NACE Welcomes New Mines and Minerals Development Law But Calls for Actionable Regulations to Benefit Communities

Freetown, Monday 22 August 2022: The National Advocacy Coalition on Extractives (NACE), welcome the enactment of the Mines and Minerals Development Act 2022 but at the same time we are appealing to the Ministry of Mines and Minerals Resources (MMMR) and Members of Parliament (MPs) to put in place proactive measures that enhance the introduction of progressive regulations that will ensure the full operationalisation of the law.

The new law repealed and replaced the Mines and Minerals Act, 2009, and now provides for the introduction of new and improved provisions for exploration, mines and minerals development, sale and export for the socio-economic benefit of the people of Sierra Leone, to provide for the facilitation of transparent and accountable management of the minerals sector in accordance with international best practice.

The new law also seeks to provide for improved employment and employment practices in the mineral sector, provide for improved welfare of communities affected by exploration, mining and related activities and to provide for more effective measures to reduce the harmful effects of exploration and mining activities on life, property and the environment.

“For instance, we believe that the 10% from surface rent for MPs and Chiefs is not a positive request or decision because money paid as surface rent is not a development fund. It is the entitlement of landowners, an amount they receive annually for the use of their property by mining companies, who also want to see the money help improve the lives of their landlords and hosts,” said National Coordinator of NACE, Cecilia Mattia.

"Surface rent", according to the Act means “the monetary payment that a holder makes to the owner of land on which the holder intends to conduct exploration or production activities...”

It could be recalled that MPs had publicly pronounced the abolition of the Constituency Development Fund because they believed that it was creating problems between them and their subjects, but they have gone round to now request 10% from the same constituents.

“We, therefore, believe that where the law makes provision for 20% royalties, these monies can judiciously be utilised by Chiefs, MPs and Councils to undertake their individual local development projects. This involves Mining District Development fund (MDDF). Let the surface rent stay with communities.

“There is nowhere in the world where 10% of surface rent either in the laws, regulations or policies is allocated to Chiefs and MPs. This is, therefore, not progressive,” she emphasised.

NACE, however, believes that the new Mines and Minerals Development Act 2022 is a result of one of the most widely and rigorously scrutinised processes, involving extensive nationwide consultations with CSOs and other stakeholders.

#END#

About NACE

The National Advocacy Coalition on Extractives (NACE) emerged from the Diamond Area Community Development Fund coalition, established in 2003, whose mandate and scope were later broadened to become NACE. It is a coalition of National and International Organisations working on the extractives sector in Sierra Leone.

Further Information Contact:

Cecilia Mattia, National Coordinator on Tel: +23276602470, Email: cecimatt101@gmail.com
Joseph Rahall on Tel: 23276601979, Email: josephrahall@gmail.com