

**Philippine Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative**  
**67<sup>TH</sup> MULTI-STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING**  
12 March 2021 | 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM | via Google Meet

**Minutes of the Meeting**

**Attendance**

*Government*

1. Asec. Ma Teresa S. Habitan, DOF
2. Ms. Febe J. Lim, DOF
3. Ms. Charmaine B. Odicla, DOF
4. Dir. Anna Liza Bonagua, DILG
5. Engr. Romualdo Aguilos, DENR-MGB

*Industry*

1. Atty. Ronald Rex S. Recidoro, COMP
2. Atty. Francis Joseph G. Ballesteros, Jr., Philex
3. Atty. Odette A. Javier, Lepanto
4. Engr. Don Paulino, SPEX / PAP

*Civil society*

1. Mr. Vincent T. Lazatin, Bantay Kita
2. Ms. Aniceta Baltar, Concerned Citizens of Abra for Good Governance
3. Dr. Buenaventura M. Maata, Jr., Philippine Grassroots Engagement in Rural Development Foundation, Inc.
4. Dr. Nelson C. Cuaresma Jr., COASTLINE
5. Dr. Glenn Pajares, STANCe
6. Mr. Chito Trillanes, Social Action Center – Ecology Desk, Diocese of Tandag, Surigao del Sur
7. Prof. Ladylyn L. Mangada
8. Ms. Angelica Dacanay, Bantay Kita, University of the Philippines - Tacloban

*Guests*

1. Ms. Maria Angela Monica Salud B. Mamuyac, DILG

*PH-EITI Secretariat*

1. Eastword Manlises
2. Maryann Rodolfo
3. Mary Jane Baldago
4. Anna Leigh Anillo
5. Eah Antonio
6. Zoe Jimenez

- 49 7. Dennise Domingo  
50 8. Roselyn Salagan  
51 9. Rhoda Aranco  
52 10. Rhea Bagacay  
53 11. Jaime Miguel  
54 12. Ricardo Evora  
55  
56

## 57 **Agenda**

- 58 I. Call to order  
59 II. Approval of the agenda of the 67<sup>th</sup> meeting  
60 III. Approval of the minutes of the 66<sup>th</sup> MSG Meeting  
61 IV. Matters Arising from previous MSG meetings  
62 V. Main Business  
63 1. Update on Pre-validation Activities  
64 2. Annual Progress Report for CY 2020  
65 3. Position Paper on EITI Bills  
66 4. Project DATA  
67 VI. Setting of the next meeting  
68 VII. Adjournment  
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70

## 71 **Highlights**

### 72 73 *I. Call to order*

74  
75 DOF Assistant Secretary Ma. Teresa Habitan chaired the 67<sup>th</sup> MSG Meeting. There being a  
76 quorum, the meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m.  
77  
78

### 79 *II. Approval of the agenda of the 67<sup>th</sup> meeting*

80  
81 The Chair asked the members for any item for inclusion in the agenda. There being no  
82 additional item for discussion, the agenda was approved.  
83  
84

### 85 *III. Approval of the minutes of the 66<sup>th</sup> MSG meeting*

86  
87 The minutes of the 66<sup>th</sup> meeting was circulated a week before the 67<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Chair  
88 gave the members another week to send comments/feedback. If no comment is received  
89 after seven days, the minutes will be deemed approved.  
90  
91

### 92 *IV. Matters arising from previous meetings*

93  
94 The secretariat presented updates on matters arising from previous meetings.  
95

- 96 • The DOF has written the MGB a letter requesting the enforcement of the DAO 2017-  
97 07 on mining companies that did not participate in the Seventh PH-EITI Report.  
98 Likewise, a letter was sent to the DOE requesting an explanation for the  
99 nonparticipation of a few oil, gas, and coal companies targeted in the Report.  
100
- 101 • In the previous meeting, the Secretariat was instructed to improve communication of  
102 reporting requirements to companies, emphasizing that EITI reporting is more than  
103 just revenue transparency. The Secretariat is also set to discuss the matter of  
104 contract annexes and exploration contracts with the MGB and DOE and convene a  
105 TWG to deliberate and develop recommendations on the matter.  
106
- 107 • At the 65th Meeting, the MSG agreed not to make BARMM engagement a priority for  
108 this year. Nonetheless, an EITI orientation for BARMM through the IGRB has been  
109 proposed following instructions from the President to monitor rehabilitation efforts in  
110 Tawi-Tawi. The next IGRB meeting will be on March 19.

111

112

113 The Chair asked the members if there were any comments on the items presented by the  
114 Secretariat.

115

116 A civil society representative asked for updates on two more items—the creation of a  
117 temporary BO register and a roundtable discussion on women.

118

119 The secretariat said it is still working on the temporary BO register and confirmed that it will  
120 still push through. The BO register will reflect the same data published in the 6th Report only  
121 that the BO register will be in open format. The secretariat is working with the internal IT  
122 office of the DOF in rebuilding the PH-EITI website.

123

124 A civil society representative asked if a TWG has been convened and if the agenda  
125 proposed last MSG meeting pertaining to processes and contracts was included.

126

127 The secretariat reiterated that the TWG has not been convened yet due to focus on pre-  
128 Validation activities. The secretariat assured the MSG that a meeting on the matter shall be  
129 arranged.

130

131

## 132 *V. Main Business*

133

### 134 1. Update on Pre-Validation Activities

135

136 The secretariat presented the following updates on the pre-Validation activities.

137

138 1. The secretariat held write-shop for the Transparency template

139 2. Data/information requests sent to relevant agencies to properly respond to the  
140 needed information in the Transparency template.

- 141 3. The secretariat had a meeting with COA on March 10 on data quality and if  
 142 government data and revenue collected are being audited in compliance with  
 143 international standards.
- 144 4. The International Secretariat had a meeting with PMDC and PNOC-EC on March  
 145 11 on whether Requirement 2.6 on state participation is applicable to the  
 146 Philippines. The 6<sup>th</sup> Report needs to have a clarification on the matter. Based on  
 147 the discussions during the meeting, it appears that the requirement is not  
 148 applicable because the revenues generated by PMDC and PNOC in 2018 seem  
 149 to be immaterial.
- 150 5. The International Secretariat sent PH-EITI the mechanics for the call for  
 151 stakeholder views on EITI implementation. The call is already posted on PH-  
 152 EITI's social media. The same was sent to the PH-OGP Secretariat for  
 153 dissemination. This gives the public an opportunity to participate in assessing  
 154 EITI implementation in the Philippines.

155  
 156 The secretariat presented the remaining gaps that need to be addressed based on the initial  
 157 analysis of the International Secretariat.  
 158

| <b>Gaps (Requirement 2.2)</b>   | <b>Action Steps</b>   |
|---|---|
| List of 2018 coal license awards/transfers  | DOE to ensure list of 2018 coal license awards/transfers are comprehensively disclosed on its website   |
| Documentation of MSG's assessment of non-material deviations in 2018                          | MSG to discuss and publish non-trivial deviations between policy and practice in awarding and transferring license                            |
| List of applicants and bid criteria for the PECR5 (Fifth Philippine Energy Contracting Round) | Provide information on the PECR5 for the O&G and coal if there were any awards through bidding, including bid criteria and list of applicants |
| Commentary on the efficiency and effectiveness of license allocation systems                  | MSG to provide commentary on the efficiency and effectiveness of the procedures of awarding or transferring licenses                          |

159

| <b>Gaps (Requirement 2.3, 2.4, 2.5)</b>  | <b>Action Steps</b>   |
|--|---|
| Missing data points including the application application date (mining), and application award, expiry, and specific commodity produced (oil, gas, and coal) | MGB and DOE to disclose the data. Disclosures are expected to cover non-material companies as well. |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Discussion (or reference) on government policy on contract disclosure.   | Information could be added in the Report or referenced in the Transparency template. Contracts entered into or amended from January 1, 2021 must be disclosed.        |
| Clarification on whether all companies or only material companies were requested to execute waivers for BO publication | Consultants to clarify this in the Report   |
| Stock exchange names and filings   | Identify stock listed companies and provide the name of the stock exchange and link to stock exchange filings (in the report or in the validation templates provided) |

160

| <b>Gaps (Requirement 2.6, 3.1)</b>  | <b>Action Steps</b>  |
|---|--|
| Clarification on the materiality of state participation through PMDC and PNOC | Consultants to determine % of PMDC and PNOC revenues against overall government revenues from the extractives. MSG to discuss the materiality of state participation based on the computation. |
| Mining production volume data   | MGB to disclose 2018 mining production volume data on its website  |
| Disaggregation of mining production value data per commodity                  | MGB to disclose 2018 mining production value data disaggregated per commodity  |
| Oil, gas, and coal production value data                                      | DOE to disclose oil, gas, and coal production data on its website  |
| Mining export data disaggregated by commodity                                 | MGB to disclose mining export data disaggregated by commodity (through the website or annex to the report)   |

161

| <b>Gaps (Reqs 2.6, 3.1, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 5.2)</b>               | <b>Action Steps</b>  |
|---|--|
| Assessment of impact of the missing reconciled figures from coal sector | IA shall provide how the missing data from Semirara impacts the reporting or the transparency initiative |
| Discussion on the non-applicability of Requirements 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5  | Consultants to include this in the report or the MSG to provide proof of discussion                      |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Discussion of which extractives revenues were recorded in the national budget   | MSG/consultants to include updates on revenues earmarked for specific purposes such as the Malampaya revenues, and royalties from mineral reservations  |
| Amount of subnational transfers based on the revenue sharing formula  | DBM to disclose worksheet showing gross collection so the national government from mining taxes, royalties, forestry and fishery charges, and other fees or charges on the utilization and development of national wealth |
| Disclosure of nature and beneficiaries of in-kind social and environmental expenditures (such as the nature of the SDMP projects and beneficiaries) | MSG to disclose this information. Similar disclosures should be made for the oil, gas, and coal industries.   |

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The secretariat said it is already working with some of the agencies to have the needed information disclosed either through the report or through their respective websites. The secretariat said that it would be easier, practical, and more consistent with mainstreaming to disclose data and information through the websites. The secretariat also noted that most data needed would be from the DOE and MGB.

The secretariat presented the proposed pre-validation schedule for March.

| Date                | Activity  |
|---------------------|---|
| March 15, 3-5 PM    | Meeting with IS on the Stakeholder Engagement, and Outcomes & Impact templates. MSG members are invited but not required. |
| March 16/17, 7-8 PM | Meeting with IS and 6th Report Consultants  |
| March 18            | Meeting with IS on the Validation dossier;<br>Draft templates submitted to the MSG for comments/approval                  |
| March 23 (Tuesday)  | Deadline of MSG comments/inputs;<br><u>Possible special MSG meeting on gaps that require MSG discussion</u>               |
| March 25            | Templates and dossier are ready for submission  |

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The MSG has until April 1 to submit the templates.

The Chair asked the secretariat if it is receiving responses from the MGB and DOE about

176 Validation concerns.

177

178 The secretariat confirmed that the agencies are responsive.

179

180 A civil society representative raised three concerns:

- 181 • That the report on secretariat meetings with implementing agencies did not include
- 182 the outcomes and agreements in the meetings.
- 183 • That it would be better to set deadlines and timeframes for when the gaps will be
- 184 addressed and include the names of people in charge.
- 185 • That the new Validation model puts emphasis on MSG ownership of the process,
- 186 specifically the preparation of the requirements.

187

188 Considering the foregoing, the same civil society representative asked how the MSG can

189 have a better handle on how pre-Validation activities are done and manage such that the

190 secretariat will not be left to make decisions for the MSG.

191

192 The secretariat acknowledged the concerns and welcomed the MSGs intent to be more

193 involved in the process. The secretariat said that MSG members are welcome to participate

194 in meetings only that the meetings are successive, frequent, and are held during office

195 hours, the same time the MSG members are working on and for their main job.

196

197 The secretariat added that it provides the MSG information and materials ahead of and after

198 each meeting so the members could review information and send comments or inputs as

199 necessary. The secretariat also said that as a matter of policy, the MSG should always be

200 consulted on decisions especially on the terms and direction of EITI implementation.

201

202 Regarding the meetings mentioned, the secretariat said that those served as opportunity to

203 gather more information for the Transparency template, and that there were no major

204 decisions or agreements made in the meetings.

205

206 The meetings of the International Secretariat with the PMDC, and the PNOC-EC aimed to

207 assess the materiality of state participation in extractives. The discussions suggest that the

208 requirement is not applicable to the Philippines. The International Secretariat suggested that

209 this be discussed and confirmed by the MSG and the results of the discussion be properly

210 documented or included in the Report.

211

212 Meanwhile, the meeting with COA provided information on the audit procedures of the

213 government. COA's responses will be reflected in the templates under Requirements 4 and

214 5.

215

216 The secretariat deferred to the MSG to discuss the concern raised on how the MSG could be

217 more involved in the activities that the secretariat conducts on behalf of the MSG.

218

219 A government representative informed the MSG that it has submitted the accomplished gaps

220 matrix to the secretariat. It said that it was not able to submit the list of activities of the MGB

221 because no relevant activities were done in 2020 amid the pandemic, while the list of 2018-

222 2019 may be extracted from the information that the agency submitted for the annual

223 progress report. He said that the disaggregated data on mining royalty payments have been  
224 updated on its website.

225

226 An industry representative commented on the Validation templates that the MSG was asked  
227 to comment on. He recalled that there was no MSG consensus on sub-nationalization due to  
228 some concerns raised in previous discussions pertaining to maintaining the quality of  
229 subnational reports among others.

230

231 The same representative also agreed holding a special meeting on some gaps needing  
232 MSG discussions. He also suggested preparing a material that the MSG may review ahead  
233 of the meeting to speed up discussions. He also suggested pushing back a bit on matters  
234 identified as a gap but the MSG has already determined as immaterial. He further cautioned  
235 on possible misinformation particularly on how production data is presented in the report  
236 saying that some people may simply multiply the amount by 4% and conclude that it does  
237 not correspond to the taxes reported. He explained that the production for a specific year  
238 may not necessarily equal to the excise tax for that year as some may be stockpiled and not  
239 generate revenue.

240

241 The Chair acknowledged the concerns raised by the MSG members. The Chair shared that  
242 there are also discussions among EITI implementing countries about certain guidelines on  
243 how to more accurately and sufficiently disclose information because there are different  
244 ways, across countries, in disclosing production values and volumes. She said that  
245 discussions have started on having guidelines on how to look at these numbers for the  
246 transparency to lead to more knowledge and understanding of the industry.

247

248 A government representative raised concern about the discrepancy found on the DBM  
249 report, particularly on the amount of LGU shares released and the report of LGUs on how  
250 much they actually received. She said that there should be no more discrepancy because  
251 these are already released to the local governments. She said the issue arises from the  
252 timeliness of the release. Currently, the DBM releases allocations after they have received  
253 certification from BIR that it has received payments. The DBM then releases as soon as it  
254 has received the certification so there is no predictability on when the LGU would be  
255 receiving such amount. She said that the accompanying documents and the funds do not  
256 arrive at the same time. The representative furthered that the local government sometimes  
257 would not know that what they received was already their share from the national wealth.  
258 The representative shared that in the Poverty Environment initiative, there is an initiative with  
259 DBM to issue a policy that will contain items such as timeliness of the release. The  
260 recommendation is to have quarterly releases of LGU shares along with the accompanying  
261 documents so that the LGU can expect when it would be transferred. The representative  
262 said that it may eventually resolve the discrepancy in reporting among DBM and LGUs. She  
263 said that the MC has been written and has undergone consultations.

264

265 The Chair said that more coordination with DBM is needed.

266

267 The secretariat said that the DBM is one of the agencies that it has requested to respond to  
268 the gaps identified by the International Secretariat.

269



270 The secretariat also responded to an earlier comment from an industry representative  
271 concerning sub-nationalization. The secretariat said that the initiative was part of earlier work  
272 plans, but that the more recent work plans did not have sub-nationalization as a priority. The  
273 secretariat confirmed that the MSG has not discussed the matter in recent meetings and that  
274 there remains no consensus on it. The secretariat further clarified that sub-nationalization is  
275 not part of the 2021 work plan.

276 The Chair said that the MSG may discuss sub-nationalization soon and look into how the  
277 ruling of Mandamus is affecting extractive communities.

278

279 The secretariat informed the MSG that the civil society constituency has initiatives related to  
280 sub-nationalization. The initiative is called Project DATA, which the Bantay Kita will present  
281 to the MSG later in the meeting.

282

283 A civil society representative said that Bantay Kita has suggested that sub-nationalization be  
284 included in the work plan but during the 64<sup>th</sup> Meeting the Chair recommended to have the  
285 initiative discussed first in a TWG. The representative requested an update on the said  
286 recommendation.

287

288 The same civil society representative also commented on an earlier statement from a  
289 government representative about LGU shares saying that some LGUs are confused about  
290 the release of their shares because there are conflicting claims. He shared that in an  
291 instance, one company is operating in three municipalities so the exact amount of the shares  
292 could be an issue. He then asked what the guidance is of the DBM and the DOF on the  
293 matter.

294

295 The Chair agreed that the issues mentioned do need some guidance and clarification from  
296 colleagues in DBM and BLGF. The chair asked the secretariat to have a coordination  
297 meeting soon with the mentioned agencies to have some information about the matter.

298

299 The secretariat acknowledged the instruction given. The secretariat also confirmed that there  
300 was an instruction in the 64<sup>th</sup> meeting to convene a TWG on the project of Bantay Kita and  
301 apologized that the TWG was not convened due to time constraints. However, it reiterated  
302 that the project will be discussed later in the meeting as part of the agenda.

303

304 Another civil society representative sought clarification on the gaps identified particularly on  
305 the efficiency of the procedures of awarding or transferring licenses. He said that only the  
306 DENR knows the process and can provide commentary on the matter. He also agreed with  
307 an earlier comment from an industry representative about the identified gap on mining  
308 production volume data. He said that there could be data on processing. He also shared a  
309 fellow civil society representative's concern that the outcomes of meetings should be  
310 reported. He also said that social and environment data are presented in the regions, but the  
311 actual accomplishments are not reported. He said that the community may not be aware of  
312 these accomplishments. He furthered that municipalities are usually not aware of the shares  
313 they receive and the how the exact amount of their shares are computed.

314

315 The Chair acknowledged the concerns and said that the comment that only the MGB and the  
316 DOE may comment on the licensing processes may already be counted as a commentary.

317 She also said that the comments point to the necessity of really understanding how the DBM  
318 allocates the shares of municipalities.

319  
320 2. 2020 Annual Progress Report  
321

322 The secretariat informed the MSG that the secretariat is still working on the draft. The  
323 secretariat presented the outline of the APR and told the MSG that it hopes to send the draft  
324 by next week.

325  
326 The 2020 APR outline:

- 327  
328 Foreword  
329 I.General Assessment of the Year  
330 II.Program Outcomes and Impact  
331 A. Research and Publication  
332 B. Stakeholder Engagement: Outreach and Linkages  
333 C. Communications and Advocacy  
334 D. Administration and Operations  
335 Annexes  
336 Participating Entities for the 6th Report  
337 MSG Membership and Attendance to Meetings  
338 Summary of Activities  
339

340 The secretariat also presented the 2018-2019 APR and said that starting 2020, the APR will  
341 be aligned with the calendar year now that the EITI international has given MSGs more  
342 flexibility in deciding on the approach for monitoring progress in implementing work plans  
343 and in assessing outcomes and impact of implementation. The link to the draft APR was  
344 sent to the chat box.

345  
346 A civil society representative recommended replacing research and publication after  
347 Communications and Advocacy as support to the main initiatives.

348  
349  
350 1. Position paper on EITI bills  
351

352 The secretariat updated the MSG on the progress of the work being done by the TWG for  
353 the legislative advocacy.

354  
355 The secretariat shared what transpired in the House of Representatives Natural Resource  
356 Committee Hearing on February 10, 2021 wherein Rep. Eddie Bong Plaza took the lead to  
357 push for the consolidation of the bills. The authors of the bills were not present in the  
358 hearing. A TWG meeting will be convened for this purpose. Rep. Zarate also recommended  
359 to consolidate the bills authored by Rep. LRay Villafuerte and Eddie Villanueva. As per the  
360 committee secretary, there is currently no NatRes Committee hearing scheduled for the rest  
361 of March. During the hearing, the PH-EITI also committed to submit a position paper on the  
362 bills filed.

363

364 Following the comments from the PH-EITI Chair, Usec. Agabin, the March 2021 version of  
365 the position paper highlights the institutionalization of the principles of transparency,  
366 accountability and open data in the extractive industries rather than the institutionalization of  
367 EITI.

368

369 The secretariat presented to the MSG the differences of the February and March versions.  
370 The new version highlights that the MSG supports the institutionalization of the principles of  
371 transparency and open data and the creation of a multisectoral body. The new provision on  
372 the PH-EITI office indicates the creation of a secretariat headed by a national coordinator  
373 and the office being lodged in a competent government agency that has authority to adhere  
374 to the transparency and accountability principles.

375

376 The provision on beneficial ownership indicates that the disclosure should be aligned with  
377 that of the SEC through the development of a public register.

378

379 The March version of the position paper also indicates change in the provision on EITI  
380 funding, from an allocation of 1% of gross industry proceeds to 0.1% of the overall  
381 government revenue from extractive industries.

382

383 The secretariat then requested the head of the TWG, Mr. Vincent Lazatin, to lead the rest of  
384 the discussion on the position paper.

385

386 The Chair asked the secretariat to confirm that the bills will not be discussed before the  
387 present session goes into recess.

388

389 The secretariat confirmed that the bills will not be discussed in the current session but.

390

391 The head of the TWG shared with the MSG that the TWG encountered a hiccup the day  
392 before the committee hearing when the position paper was supposed to be submitted after  
393 the Chair recommended some changes in the position paper. Mr. Lazatin asked the MSG for  
394 comments.

395

396 An industry representative said that he was surprised with the revisions as the MSG's vision  
397 was to institutionalize PH-EITI and that the revised version does not indicate where the PH-  
398 EITI will be lodged. He furthered that if it is the version that would be submitted, the  
399 Chamber will be more inclined to submit its own position paper.

400

401 The Chair pointed out potential accountability issues that may arise when there is an  
402 indicated budget but no identified agency that would execute it.

403

404 The head of the TWG said that the current version is a departure from what was initially  
405 agreed on and might lose the essence of PH-EITI.

406

407 A civil society representative asked if it is possible to suggest DBM, the original house of PH-  
408 EITI, to adopt the PH-EITI if the DOF and DENR are hesitant to house PH-EITI.

409

410 The head of the TWG said that even if DBM agrees to house PH-EITI, there remains the  
411 problem of the position paper which no longer talks about PH-EITI.

412 The Chair reminded the MSG that every constituency may submit a separate position paper.  
413 She also pointed out that the position of the DOF in many bills is often overruled by the  
414 wisdom of Congress. The Chair said that the current version of the position paper shall not  
415 put an end to the overall objective that is to institutionalize PH-EITI because the Chamber  
416 and civil society and other stakeholders can push for legislation. The DOF is only one of the  
417 stakeholders. The Chair asked if the MSG was officially requested to come up with a  
418 position.

419  
420 The secretariat said that the request was for the DOF to submit a position.

421  
422 The head of the TWG synthesized that the possible way forward is to submit separate  
423 position papers.

424  
425 The Chair pointed out that the DOF's position doesn't categorically state that it is against the  
426 institutionalization of PH-EITI.

427  
428 A civil society representative asked if there is a known reason for the change in the position  
429 of the DOF.

430  
431 The Chair said that the Secretary has been receiving external communication against EITI  
432 as an institution, which translated to his hesitancy in embracing EITI as an institution but not  
433 against the transparency and accountability objectives of EITI.

434  
435 The head of the TWG pointed out that the expected movement on the bill is close to zero  
436 considering the upcoming elections and budget season. He asked if it is worth spending  
437 energy on the bill considering foregoing. He, however, acknowledged that it might be  
438 beneficial to build relationships now especially with the champions of the bill such that when  
439 2022 comes along, PH-EITI can hit the road running.

440  
441 A civil society representative reacts and said that the change in course was disappointing  
442 and requested that in the future all stakeholders lay down all information to help in  
443 strategizing. Considering the timing and possibility of having different people in Congress  
444 come the next term, she proposed, from a political science point of view, to suspend all  
445 efforts in lobbying and use the time to solidify the stand and strategy of the MSG.

446  
447 The Chair clarified that the MSG remains solid in its position and objectives at the moment.

448  
449 The secretariat recommended to the MSG to also consider the streamlining of MICC and  
450 PH-EITI in the future. The secretariat shared that the MICC is an interagency organization  
451 co-chaired by the DOF and the DENR, with NEDA as its secretariat. The MICC covers the  
452 mining sector only.

453  
454 An industry representative pointed out that it may be beneficial to talk to the committee  
455 secretary to delay tackling the bill before it convenes a TWG meeting.

456  
457 The Chair cautioned against causing the matter of EITI institutionalization reaching the  
458 committee's "bottom of the pile". The MSG should not wish for the bills to get stuck there.

459

460 A civil society representative asked if it is difficult to have amendments to the bill when it is  
461 passed.

462

463 The head of the TWG said that there would be opportunities for amendments.

464 The same civil society representative suggests letting the bill go its natural course and in the  
465 event that is passed, then the MSG can work on the amendments.

466

467 Another civil society representative acknowledged the suggestion but cautioned about  
468 possibly exposing the differences of the stand of the MSG members and its Chair if the bill is  
469 to proceed at this point.

470

471 The head of the TWG read and industry representative's comment sent via chat box. The  
472 comment expresses concurrence that it will not be good to publicly expose the differences  
473 within the MSG.

474

475 The head of the TWG synthesized the discussion saying that the MSG shall keep  
476 communications with the committee secretary and bide time and not expose differences.

477

478 An industry representative pointed out that allowing the meetings to continue will push DOF  
479 to submit and solidify its position which would be difficult to roll back.

480

481 The head of the TWG suggests asking the committee secretary and get a sense as to the  
482 outlook for the bill moving forward, and to have the MSG alerted of any movement in the  
483 committee pertaining to the bill. He summarized the discussion pointing out that the MSG will  
484 let the bill quiet down in the meantime.

485

486 The secretariat asked if the MSG members will still submit its position papers.

487

488 An industry representative said that the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines shall submit a  
489 position paper. The civil society representatives have submitted its position paper. The MSG  
490 will let the constituencies submit separate position papers.

491

492

## 493 2. Project DATA

494

495 Bantay Kita, represented by its national coordinator, Mr. Vince Lazatin presented Project  
496 DATA to the MSG.

497

498 Deepening Access, Transparency and Accountability to Improve Natural Resource  
499 Governance and Empower Communities or Project DATA is a 26-month project of Bantay  
500 Kita supported by the USAID.

501

502 The project aims to improve natural resource governance particularly at the local level by  
503 enhancing policies, strengthening institutions, and empowering communities. The project will  
504 assist local partners in establishing regional knowledge hubs aimed at facilitating capacity-  
505 building among stakeholders and ensure the sustainability of the Project's outcomes.

506

507

508 The project's objectives are:

509

- 510 a. To improve the enabling policy environment for transparent and accountable natural
- 511 resource government
- 512 b. To increase and sustain capacity and understanding on local resource governance
- 513 among stakeholders
- 514 c. To enhance the participation and inclusion of various stakeholders in engagement

515

516 Key result areas of Project DATA

517

- 518 i. Improved policy environment for transparency and accountability in natural resource
- 519 governance
- 520 ii. Increased and sustained capacity and understanding on local resource governance
- 521 among stakeholders
- 522 iii. Enhanced participation and inclusion around local multi-stakeholder engagement
- 523 platforms in the mining sector

524

525 Main project outputs

526

- 527 i. Institutionalization of local MSGs in Abra, Benguet, Cebu, Dinagat Islands
- 528 ii. Establishment of local knowledge hubs – UP Baguio, USJR Cebu, FSUU Butuan
- 529 iii. Policy recommendations and proposals on IP royalty monitoring, CSO selection
- 530 process, and SDMP presented to DENR-MGB and NCIP
- 531 iv. Engagement with BARMM on a natural resource governance policy framework
- 532 v. Development of research and knowledge products – scoping studies on chosen
- 533 topics/areas by knowledge hubs

534

535 Local implementing partners

536

- 537 1. Concerned Citizens of Abra for Good Government, Inc.
- 538 2. Sectoral Transparency Alliance on Natural Resource Governance in Cebu, Inc.
- 539 3. Philippine Grassroots Engagement in Rural Development, Inc. (Dinagat Islands)
- 540 4. PILIPINA-Benguet chapter (for formalization)

541

542 Purpose of partnership

543

544 PH-EITI shall provide Bantay Kita with technical assistance in its initiative to localize the

545 governance model of EITI in the provinces of Abra, Benguet, Cebu, and Dinagat Islands.

546

547 Proposed Roles for Bantay Kita

548

- 549 1. Lead the implementation
- 550 2. Coordinate with PH-EITI on activities that may require their expertise or assistance
- 551 3. Link PH-EITI with knowledge hubs
- 552 4. Provide logistics in activities invited by Bantay Kita for PH-EITI Secretariat to
- 553 participate
- 554 5. Provide updates to PH-EITI MSG

554

555

556 Proposed Roles for PH-EITI Secretariat

- 557 1. Endorse BL to NGA/RGA units and agencies  
558 2. Endorse the participation of the extractive industries  
559 3. Serve as resource speakers in capacity-building sessions  
560 4. Share knowledge products  
561 5. Facilitate capacity building for local government units and concerned government  
562 agencies  
563 6. Provide and/or facilitate access of relevant mining-related data  
564

565 Bantay Kita recommends having the support from the government and industry to participate  
566 in the subnational MSGs and to include the sub-nationalization activities in PH-EITI's work  
567 plan (technical support as resource persons in capacity building with stakeholders and  
568 facilitation and coordination of capacity building for LGUs)  
569

570 The Chair noted that nothing out of the ordinary is being requested from PH-EITI. The Chair  
571 asked Mr. Lazatin on the needed action from the MSG.  
572

573 Mr. Lazatin requested expressed support from the MSG for Project DATA.  
574

575 A civil society representative specified the request for an endorsement letter from PH-EITI  
576 and the COMP addressed to the companies and LGUs to help facilitate information  
577 requests. The representative said that the information will be used to craft recommendations  
578 for improved resource governance at the subnational level.  
579

580 The Chair asked the secretariat to confirm that the letters have been prepared and endorsed  
581 for signature.  
582

583 The secretariat confirmed that that request has already been taken care of. The secretariat  
584 proposed that the MSG tackle sub-nationalization in future meetings particularly to identify  
585 the dynamics and relationship between the PH-EITI MSG and the proposed subnational  
586 MSGs.  
587

588 The Chair acknowledged that there is a long way to go and that there are matters to be first  
589 identified. This includes a need to find other samples of sub-nationalization in other countries  
590 to be better guided with best practices in the future.  
591

592 The Chair concluded that Project DATA has the support of PH-EITI and the MSG.  
593  
594

595 *VI. Setting of the next meeting*  
596

597 The secretariat reminded the MSG that a special meeting is proposed to be held on March  
598 23, while the next regular MSG meeting is scheduled on the second Friday of April.  
599

600 The Chair pointed out that April 9 is a holiday.  
601

602 The secretariat corrected the date of the next regular MSG meeting which is then scheduled  
603 to be on April 16.

604 The Chair reiterated that most of the matters to be discussed on March 23 have already  
605 been discussed in the past and will just be a matter of officially documenting the responses.  
606  
607 **With no other concerns on the agenda left to be discussed, the meeting was**  
608 **adjourned at 11:26 a.m.**