



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries

Feature Address

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Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Launch of Sixth EITI Report

Thursday 24th October 2019

Citizens of Trinidad and Tobago it is my pleasure to launch the sixth Trinidad and Tobago Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) report. The EITI as the name suggests focuses on transparency and accountability in how a country manages its oil, gas or mineral resources. This initiative is in agreement with the Government's own principles openness, clarity and honesty. These are words we live by especially, as it relates to the energy sector. The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago's commitment to transparency is well documented. There has been a consistency in our candidness and we not only support the EITI, but we also laid the Gas Master Plan in Parliament. For the first time citizens had access to that level of details into our energy sector policy. At the Spotlight on Energy, we highlighted the country's energy sector challenges and gave a lucid overview of the Government's plans to deal with setbacks decisively. Transparency, accountability and good governance are more than cliché watchwords for us and these principles have in fact risen to the top of the agenda for this Government.

Results of EITI Report 2017

This latest EITI Report reconciles payments made by oil, gas and mining companies against Government receipts. The report confirms the decline in Government's revenue from the energy sector, a downward trend that has impacted us all. However, through Government's stewardship and interventions we are now recovering from this decline. For 2017, the report shows that we received total receipts of TT\$5.8Bn, compared to the TT\$28.6Bn for 2014. This is a seventy-eight (78%) percent decline.

For 2017, these totals were reconciled against the payments disclosed by forty-six (46) reporting companies. There was a small TT\$3.8M difference between what companies declared as paid and what Government declared as received. This can be attributed by the EITI Auditor/Administrator to foreign exchange differences, and, timing differences. This independent verification is very important, as in other countries their EITI reports reveal that millions have gone missing and cannot be accounted for. Thankfully, in this country, we can account for any differences between company payments and Government receipts.

For the fourth year running, the NGC is the largest taxpayer contributing TT\$2.3Bn to Government revenue through dividend payments and taxes. They are followed by EOG Resources with payments of TT\$851M and BPTT with payments of TT\$846M. In 2017, Shell paid TT\$412M while BHP paid TT\$406M and closing out the leading contributors state owned Petrotrin paid TT\$378M.

This report not only highlights payments but also acts a check and provides the Government with recommendations on how to improve its revenue collection, data management and audit and assurance systems. These are recommendations we plan to implement in the short to medium term.

Conclusion--Commitment to Transparency

I want to reiterate that this Government support of the EITI is a manifestation of our unequivocal commitment to delivering transparency and good governance to the people of Trinidad and Tobago. We take this commitment and responsibility very seriously. As a Government, we are committed to holding firm to the principles of transparency, frank dialogue and sharing data on our extractive sectors with citizens.

Our support of the EITI is proof of this, and very soon, we will sign a new five (5) year EITI MOU with all stakeholders. This will be an EITI MOU with the longest term. As I launch this report, I reaffirm Government's duty to be a steward of our natural resource wealth and give citizens a guarantee that we will evolve the narrative from transparency to continued accountable and sustainable revenue management.

I thank you.