

## **PENPLUSBYTES TO UNDERTAKE Amplifying Oil & Elections Issues PROJECT**

### **Introduction**

The electoral commission of Ghana is preparing for a successful elections come 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2016 while citizens wait to exercise their franchise based on policies and convincing manifestoes. A key issue of National concern to civil society groups, economists, stakeholders and citizens, however, is with the management of Ghana's nascent oil and gas resources with continuous dialogue on how best it would benefit all.

Since the production of oil in commercial quantities in 2010, Ghana has accrued up to about three billion in total revenue. Questions have been raised on what these revenues have been used for and the impact of it on citizen. Nonetheless, these questions have not been fully addressed due to the inability of citizens and media to probe. Some factors identified as reasons accounting for this include the lack of advocacy and media push to promote oil and gas issues in the electoral discourse, the absence of an amplified political parties' policy position on the management of the oil and gas sector and low citizens input to inform electoral decision making across the country. Penplusbytes with support from *Ghana* Oil and Gas for Inclusive Growth (*GOGIG*) is initiating the '**Amplifying Oil & Elections Issues**' project to heighten awareness of and strengthen responsiveness to oil and gas governance issues in Ghana.

### **Project Objectives**

The project aim is:

- To inform Citizens' engagements on Oil and Gas through awareness creation and sensitization.
- To issue based campaigning by promoting an oil and gas campaign agenda through Media Engagement and Dialogue.

### **Project Activities**

The project will use the following activities to achieve its objective:

- Engage with editors, senior journalists and key industry stakeholders in discussing latest trends and developments in the oil and gas sector using dialogues, forums and workshops.
- Create awareness about the main issue pertaining in the oil and gas sector that citizens and the media should engage people who are seeking public office using a **Vote compass**.
- Strengthen the relevant policies in the oil and gas sector which will have the most impact on citizens through a concerted media campaign, online, mobile and social media drive.

### **Conclusion**

The Amplifying Oil & Elections Issues project will go a long way toward increasing Transparency and good governance over the extractive sector and revenue in Ghana for development.