

Enhancing the Role of the Media in Promoting Oil and Gas Sector Transparency and Accountability Project

Citizens, civil society and the media have an important role to play in enhancing accountability of public officials, reducing corruption, and improving judicious management of oil and gas revenue and resources. Citizens' participation in oversight processes has become an attractive approach in promoting accountability and transparency and thereby ensuring good governance. Since the discovery of oil, active public advocacy by civil society supported by the media has contributed to enhancing accountability and increasing demands for transparency in the sector.

However, there are countless questions surrounding the sector such as corruption, misapplication of petroleum revenues and many others. These and other issues require deeper analysis and investigation to unearth and bring to light some of the issues. It is against this backdrop that Penplusbytes with support from Ghana Oil and Gas for Inclusive Growth (GOGIG) is implementing the '**Enhancing the role of the media in promoting oil and gas sector transparency and accountability**' project. The rationale of the project is to ensure transparency and accountability in the oil and gas sector through effective media oversight on oil and gas revenue management. The project will contribute to GOGIG's mission of *preventing corruption and strengthening accountability*, by supporting the media and amplifying key issues within the framework of accountability.

Overall project aim:

- a. To train journalists on specific sector knowledge and investigative journalism skills – training and monitoring of how journalist and media houses apply knowledge acquired
- b. To support selected trained journalists and media houses to enhance quality, and increase quantity of oil and gas investigative stories in the mass media
- c. To increase citizens' awareness on oil and gas issues through visualization and infographics, and creating avenue for feedback from citizens on oil and gas issues

The project will use the following activities to achieve its objectives: Face to Face training, Field Trip, Bursaries, Mentoring, On and Off Premises Training, Editors Liaison, Content Generation and Power Reporting Series. The project will target journalists and editors drawn from leading Ghanaian media organisations in order to build their capacity in amplifying citizens' voices.

In conclusion, the "*Enhancing the Role of the Media in Promoting Oil and Gas Sector Transparency and Accountability*" project will go a long way to increase transparency, accountability and good governance over the oil and gas sector revenue for development of Ghana.