

Forum on Environment and Social Accountability in the Extractive Sector in

Kwale County

Kaskazi Hotel, 20th June, 2018.

Concept Note

The County Government Act makes a clear link between planning and budgeting. Budgets help to provide resources for the implementation of plans. Ensuring sufficient resource allocations and fidelity for the extractive sector in resource-rich counties is important for promoting sustainable development of the sector. With resource scarcity and competing needs, it is important that both County Governments and the County Assemblies appreciate the importance of resourcing implementation of strategies geared towards realizing the full potential of the extractive sector.

ILEG has been supporting local communities in Kwale through the Kwale County Natural Resources Network (KCNRN) to advocate for appropriate budgetary allocations for developing the extractive sector, ensuring appropriate social audits and environmental safeguards, and tracking implementation. As part of this process, ILEG has been working to develop an extractive sector environment and social accountability report for Kwale County and has developed an environment and social accountability monitoring tool.

This forum will assess the progress that Kwale County has made with regard to environment and Social accountability in Kwale using the tool. In addition, the forum will provide opportunity to share relevant information to support informed debate on governance of the extractive sector and benefit sharing.

In addition, ensuring accountability on promises made by leaders is an important but often-ignored imperative in governance. Many of the promises made by leaders and political parties in the electioneering process are rarely kept. The extractive sector stands out as a sector with great potential for over-promising and under-delivering. For counties like Kwale, the challenges with management of extractive sector revenues attracts the need for continuous assessment, monitoring and reporting on delivery of the commitments made by leaders and political parties in their respective manifestos.

The forum will therefore review the positions of major political parties on extractive sector as articulated in their manifestos and interrogate their development concepts and approaches, as well as the progress of their implementation. It will bring together community, civil society, private sector and county government leaders from Kwale County.