



Public Interest and Accountability Committee

STATEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE EXECUTION OF THE PIAC- EOCO MoU

The Executive Director of the Economic and Organised Crime Office (EOCO), ACP (Rtd) K.K. Amoah; Members of the EOCO delegation to this memorable occasion, colleague members and represented staff of the Public Interest and Accountability Committee (PIAC), Members of the Ghanaian media fraternity here to witness this momentous occasion; I salute you all.

Today, 25th February, 2019 will be recorded in the annals of this country, as a day on which two separate institutions of state, with distinct, but mutually reinforcing mandates agreed to work together to protect this country's petroleum revenues, our common heritage, from wanton embezzlement and criminal abuse.

PIAC is a Statutory and Citizens-led institution mandated to ensure the efficient, transparent, and accountable management and use of Ghana's petroleum revenues.

Pursuant to its mandate, PIAC has since 2011, made findings and recommendations in its Semi-Annual and Annual Reports highlighting, among others, instances of misapplication, misuse, and diversion of petroleum funds allocated to projects.

For us at PIAC, shedding light on what appears to be criminal conduct on the part of some public officials, with respect to the use of petroleum revenues, without holding such people to account, does not in any way serve the accountability mandate that can be inferred from our name.

And yet we have been constrained by the fact that, our statute of establishment did not provide us with the legal capacity to enforce our recommendations.

With the agreement between our two organisations to collaborate, in order to safeguard our petroleum revenues from criminal abuse, we are from today, beginning a transitional journey from transparency to accountability, with a view

to combating economic and organised crimes relating to the management and use of petroleum revenues in this country.

The working relationship between our two organisations, will include but not limited to the following:

1. Following the publication of each report, PIAC shall:
 - i. Invite EOCO to the launch of the report;
 - ii. Submit copies of the report to EOCO, highlighting relevant sections that require consideration and further investigation;
 - iii. Furnish EOCO with accompanying documents that relate to the highlighted sections;
 - iv. Avail itself to EOCO during the investigations, where and when necessary.
2. EOCO shall update PIAC at regular intervals on the progress of its investigations on matters referred to it by PIAC.
3. Upon the conclusion of its investigations into matters referred to it by PIAC, EOCO shall submit a formal report to PIAC highlighting its investigative findings and intended actions to deal with the issues presented.

The MoU will not restrict PIAC from participating in similar activities or arrangements with other entities or Government agencies. The MoU will last for a period of five (5) years from the date of signature unless revised, extended or terminated by the written agreement of the Parties.

During the tenure of the MoU, the Parties may review annually, the provisions of this MoU and its implementation.

It is our conviction that the PIAC-EOCO collaboration will serve as a useful example of how state agencies with similar mandates can collaborate, rather than compete to achieve their common objective. We are hopeful and look forward to serving the national interest much better, through the collaborative pursuit of our respective accountability mandates.

Thank you.

Dr Steve Manteaw
Chairman
PIAC

25 TH FEBRUARY 2019