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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**STATEMENT BY THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE  
(PIAC) ON THE PUBLICATION OF THE 2014 PIAC SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT**

The Public Interest and Accountability Committee (PIAC) has published its Semi-Annual Report on the management of petroleum revenues for the first half of the year 2014 on its website [www.piacghana.org](http://www.piacghana.org). This is in fulfilment of Section 56 of the Petroleum Revenue Management Act, 2011 (Act 815).

The Committee notes that the publication of the report is behind the statutory date set by the Act. However, PIAC feels no less obliged to meet the requirement.

This report is the third Semi-Annual Report to be published by the Committee since its inception. The report analyses crude oil production and liftings; validates the accuracy of petroleum revenues declared by state institutions; assesses allocations of petroleum revenues to support annual budget and the Ghana Petroleum Funds as stipulated by the Act; discusses how petroleum receipts are allocated and utilised as well as the performance of the petroleum funds during the period under review.

The following are the key findings made in the 2014 semi-annual report:

1. The Western Corridor Gas Infrastructure Development Project has finally been completed and 27 million standard cubic feet (mscf) of associated gas evacuated from the Jubilee field during the period under review to the gas processing plant to be used for the commissioning phase of the project;
2. Payment of crop compensation totalling GH ¢ 8.6 million has been made to all affected farmers as at the end of June 2014. However payment of compensation for land compulsorily acquired for the project estimated to cost GH ¢ 17 million is yet to commence even though requisite surveys and valuation have been completed by the Land Valuation Board.
3. Approximately 73% of the total expected revenue from the petroleum sector for 2014 had been received by the end of June 2014 despite the fact that total volume of liftings by the Ghana Group during the first half of 2014 declined by approximately 29% compared to total liftings over the same period in 2013.
4. Production of oil from the Saltpond fields over the past three years has been on a steady decline.
5. A surface rental invoice amounting to US\$ 67,438.36 issued to Oranto/Stone Energy in February 2013 was still unpaid at the end of June 2014. No explanation has been given as to why the amount remains unpaid.

In the light of the above findings, the Public Interest and Accountability Committee (PIAC) has proffered the following recommendations for the consideration of relevant stakeholder institutions:

1. Key stakeholders in the upstream petroleum sector are encouraged to release reports and data (especially on the utilisation of the ABFA) in a prompt manner. The information released should also be disaggregated as much as possible to cover the reporting periods of PIAC.

2. Oranto/Stone Energy should be compelled by GRA and/or BOG as a matter of urgency to pay the outstanding surface rental invoice (preferably with interest) or in further default be made to face any applicable sanction(s).
3. The Ministry of Finance must make every effort to release funds to GNPC and GNGC for the payment of the land compensation.

In the meantime, the 2014 PIAC Annual Report which will follow-up soon. That do a more detailed analysis of some issues in the 2014 Semi-Annual Report is expected to come out soon.

**Yaw Owusu Addo**

**Chairman, Communications Sub-Commitee**