

PIAC' S 2020 ACTIVITY REPORT

1.0 Background

The Public Interest and Accountability Committee (PIAC) consists of Committee Members and a supporting Secretariat. The Secretariat staff includes a Coordinator, Technical Manager, Finance Manager, Economic Policy Analyst, Senior Administrative Officer, Communications Officer, Technical Officer, Accounts and Procurement Officer and an Administrative Assistant/Driver. The Secretariat is managed on a day-to-day basis by the staff, headed by the Coordinator.

2.0 Main Activities

2.1 Launch of 2019 PIAC Annual Report

PIAC launched its 2019 Annual Report on the management and use of petroleum revenues in June 2020 in Accra, in fulfilment of Section 56 of the Petroleum Revenue Management Act (PRMA), 2011 (Act 815).

The launch event which was only limited to the media had some PIAC Committee members in attendance as well as Secretariat staff. The restricted attendance was due to the outbreak of the Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19) which brought about the need for social distancing and prevented large gatherings in 2020.

The Report was jointly launched by the Chairman of PIAC, Mr Noble Wadzah and the President of the Ghana Journalists Association (GJA), Dr Roland Affail Monney.



Mr Noble Wadzah (Left) and Dr Roland Affail Monney (Right), jointly launching the Report.

2.2 Launch of First Issue Paper on the Management and Use of Petroleum Revenues

The Committee, in August 2020, launched an issue paper cataloguing a number of issues needing urgent attention in the petroleum revenue management space. The first of its kind by PIAC, issues highlighted include but not limited to the extension of expenditure by government to cover more than the four selected priority areas, the thin-spread of the revenue for projects, non-utilisation and un-accounting for the full ABFA allocation.



Mr Noble Wadzah (Right) and Mr Mark Agyemang (Left), addressing the media during the launch of the Issue Paper

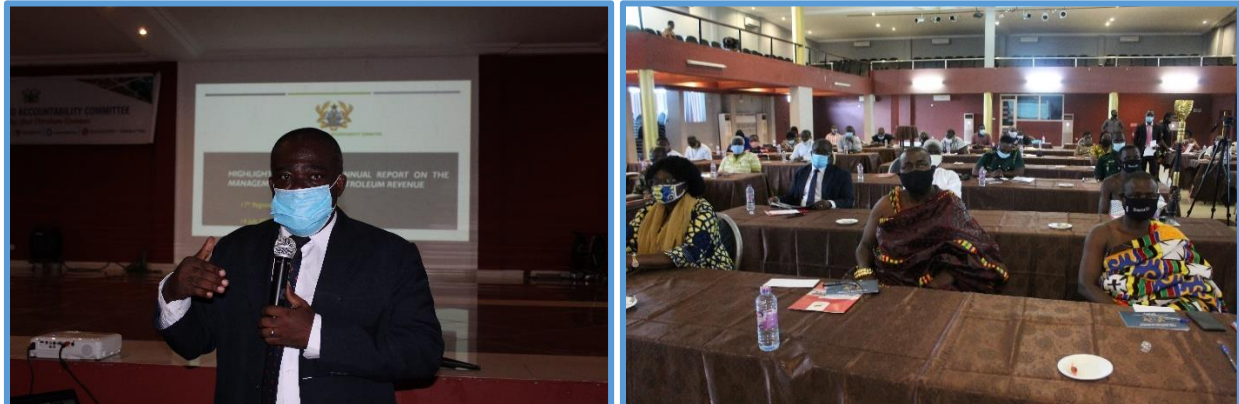
2.3 Report on Regional Engagements

In fulfilment of Section 56(c) of the PRMA, which requires the Committee to hold public meetings at least twice each year, the Committee held two regional fora in Sunyani and Cape Coast.





Some pictures from the regional forum held in Cape Coast



Some pictures from the regional forum held in Sunyani

2.4 District Engagements and ABFA Project Monitoring

As part of the public engagements in two (2) Regions; Eastern, and Ahafo, the Committee undertook physical monitoring and verification of ABFA-funded projects in these Regions. The project inspection exercise, which has become a regular feature in PIAC' s district engagements, seeks to assure the existence of reported ABFA-funded projects, obtain first-hand information on the quality and impact of projects funded with petroleum revenues, and, make an informed assessment of how well the oil revenues were being applied.

Most of the district engagements were preceded by in-studio radio discussions, which informed the public about the work of PIAC.



The PIAC team inspected ongoing works at the Anomabo Fisheries College in Cape Coast.





Some pictures from the inspection of a 1000 Metric Tonne Warehouse at Sunyani.



The construction of the Sunyani By-pass: Outer Ring Road (Kumasi – Berekum Road) was also inspected by the PIAC Team in 2020



The construction of this irrigation infrastructure at Kornorkle in the Yilo Krobo District received funding from petroleum revenues and was inspected by PIAC in the year under review.



The construction of this CHPS facility at Ahankrasu in the Eastern Region was inspected by the PIAC Team in 2020.

2.5 Engagements with Stakeholders

2.5.1 Report of Roundtable Discussion on ABFA Expenditure on the Physical Infrastructure and Service Delivery in Health Priority Area

PIAC, as part of advocacy on the management and use of petroleum revenues convened a technical roundtable to assess petroleum revenue investments in the health sector over the years. The forum made a strong case for increased investments into health sector financing to ensure equity and access.

The forum also highlighted the need for a strategic and technical prioritization of the sector and projects to receive adequate funding.



Some of the participants in the forum

2.5.2 Report of Meeting with the Finance Committee of Parliament
Members of the Committee met with the Finance Committee of Parliament to discuss PIAC' s 2019 Annual Report as well as seek clarifications on issues raised.

Discussions centred on the unutilised ABFA, the decommissioning of the Saltpond Field by the Ghana National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC), the US\$50million advance to the Ministry of Finance by GNPC, and the language of the 2019 Annual Report.

2.5.3 Report of Consultative Meeting with GNPC
PIAC and the GNPC held a consultative meeting as part of efforts to deepen collaboration between the two institutions. The meeting provided each institution an opportunity to highlight its operations and identify ways of ensuring that the country continues to benefit from its upstream operations.

2.5.4 Report on Study Tour in the Western Region

The Ghana National Gas Company (GNGC) hosted PIAC for a study tour of its gas infrastructure facilities in the Western Region. Sites visited include the Gas Processing Plant at Atuabo, and the Takoradi Distribution Station (TDS).

2.5.5 Report on Technical Roundtable with Ghana Gas

As a follow up to a study tour of its gas infrastructure facilities in the Western Region, the GNGC hosted Members of PIAC at a technical roundtable in Accra to help enhance the Committee' s understanding of GNGC' s operational activities. The meeting afforded GNGC the opportunity to shed light on the gas sector and its prospects which has an impact on petroleum revenues.

2.5.6 Report of Editors' Forum

PIAC in 2018 instituted an annual engagement with its reporting entities, including the media to facilitate the implementation of its recommendations. The engagement in 2020 was to leverage the capacities of senior editors and news editors as key constituent members of PIAC.

Discussions centred on the highlights of the 2019 PIAC Annual Report, PIAC' s first Issue Paper on the Management and Use of Petroleum Revenues as well as how petroleum revenues channelled through the ABFA has impacted on health.



Editors and news editors in one of the sessions at the forum

2.5.7 Report on PIAC' s 2020 General Assembly

PIAC is represented by 13 members who are nominated by, and represent the different constituent groups. This engagement is held annually to leverage the capacities of member bodies to support the activities and mandate of PIAC.

Twenty-four (24) participants from the PIAC constituent bodies participated in the Forum. Some of the past members of the Committee were duly represented. The session was used to inform constituents of PIAC' s activities, explore collaborative options between PIAC and its constituents, as well as solicit feedback on ways of improving PIAC' s work, including its Reports. The upcoming PIAC@10 Anniversary was also discussed at the General Assembly.



Participants after the PIAC General Assembly

2.5.8 Report of Engagement with Institute of Financial and Economic Journalists (IFEJ)

Besides its advocacy for the establishment of PIAC, the Institute of Financial and Economic Journalists (IFEJ) as a partner of the Committee, continues to play an active role in the activities of PIAC. These contributions include analysing PIAC' s statutory reports, and dissemination of findings and recommendations that arise from them. The engagement was centred on the 2019 Semi-annual and Free SHS Monitoring reports of PIAC.

2.5.9 Report of End-of-Year Engagement with the Media

The Committee held an end of year meeting with its media stakeholders to assess the relationship in the year under review and to chart a formidable path for an improved partnership in the coming year. Discussions focused on a review of PIAC and the Media in 2020, what PIAC expects from the media and vice versa.



Some members of the PIAC team and the media after the engagement.