

Holding Government Accountable: Fresh limbs join PIAC

By Mohammed Suleman

Five new members were last week sworn-in as members of Public Interest and Accountability Committee (PIAC) with an arduous responsibility of monitoring the management of Ghana's petroleum resources.



Oil

The new members have also been encouraged to bring their expertise to bear on the operations of the Committee for the purposes of promoting accountability in the petroleum sector.

Similarly, members were also asked not to renege on their foremost mandate of keeping Ghanaians constantly informed of how managers of the country's petroleum revenues have been faring as well as providing platforms for the citizens' feedback that would be shared with duty bearers.

They were sworn in by a Deputy Minister for Finance, Hon. Mona Quartey.

The new members are Dr Steve Manteaw, representing the Ghana Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (GHEITI); Dr Kwesi Jonah, Think Tanks; Osabarima Kwaw Entsie II,

National House of Chiefs; Mr J. Winful, Institute of Chartered Accountants; and Dr Roland Affail Monney, Ghana Journalist Association.

Mr Abdallah Ali Nakyea who represents the Ghana Bar Association will be sworn in at a later date as he was not in town for the Thursday ceremony.

Hon Mona Quartey noted that the induction of the new members was in fulfillment of section 64(2) of the Petroleum Revenue Management Act 2011. She said PIAC was a novelty , hence was important for to ensure that it played its watchdog role effectively and efficiently.

She commended the pioneering committee for a very good work done as their efforts have been recognised both locally and internationally. According to her, PIAC has been instrumental in ensuring that Ghana managed its sovereign wealth fund in a transparent and accountable manner.

While encouraging the old members to make their expertise and knowledge available to the Committee whenever they called on , she also urged the new members to make their presence felt as a strong foundation has been laid for them to continue

The Deputy Minister said new oilfields were soon to come on stream and more would be required of PIAC in its oversight role.

“This is an opportunity for the injection of fresh energy, enthusiasm and drive in the work of the Committee in pursuit of its mandate. I challenge you all to work to demand transparency and accountability in the petroleum sector.

“I will like to reiterate the commitment of the ministry of Finance to ensuring that PIAC is well resourced to play its oversight role in the petroleum sector.”

The Former Chairman of PIAC, Major Daniel Sowa Ablorh-Quarcoo (Rtd), advised the new members to be committed to the cause of PIAC as well as guide against their independence.

Maj. Ablorh-Quarcoo (Rtd) stressed the need for members to understand the how PIAC works and the standard it has set over the years.

He assured that would make himself for the Committee whenever it is necessary, saying “We have some affinity with the committee and we will make ourselves available when the need arises.”

The current PIAC Chairman, Prof. Paul Kingsley Buah-Bassuah, in his remarks, observed that the new members appeared lucky in that about 80% of the budget that the Committee sent to the Ministry of Finance has been approved. He encouraged the new members to be diligent and commit to the mandate of the Committee.

On their part, the newly inducted members pledged to continue from where their predecessors have left off and assured they would do all within their means to effectively carry out the mandate given them.