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What Did Dr. Owl Say?



Rat trap in town
is not for rat
alone.

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West Africa Contract And Monitoring Conference Ends Today

By Abednego Davis

A three-day conference geared towards improving the transparency and accountability of public procurement and extractive industries in four West

African countries, Liberia, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Nigeria will end today, at the Cape hotel in Monrovia.

The conference is part of a larger Contract Monitoring Program that will strengthen and support multi-stakeholder coalitions (comprised of civil society, government, and the private sector) that will monitor the awarding and implementation of contracts in priority sectors.

These will include coalitions specializing in monitoring of oil, gas and mining deals that are crucial to the economies of all four countries and the creation of an informal regional network among the four-country coalitions for ongoing implementation support.

The gathering, which brought together 70 participants, is expected to lay the foundation for what is envisioned to be a two-to-three-year program with leveraged funding and technical support.

Dr. Ohene Owusu Nyanin, World Bank country manager, told the gathering that participating countries in the conference

were all natural resources-driven economies, which are expected to stress on the importance of contract monitoring. This would ensure the efficient use and management of resources that would increase the living standards of their citizens.

Many observers believed that with adequate and sustained support, such monitoring could serve as an effective oversight function that would help to control fraud and corruption in public contracts.

This program, according to them, would contribute to controlling corruption and ultimately improving public sector efficiency and the delivery of public services.

The Contract Monitoring is led by the World Bank Institute, the World Bank Africa Region, the Liberia Public Procurement Concession Commission, with support from the Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition and ANSA