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West African Contract Monitoring Meeting Opens in Monrovia Today



A three-day West African Contract Monitoring Meeting opens in Monrovia today. The event is part of a larger Contract Monitoring Program that aims to improve the transparency and accountability of public procurement and contracting in four West African countries: Liberia, Ghana, Sierra Leone, and Nigeria.

The Contract Monitoring Program is led by the World Bank Institute, the World Bank Africa Region, together with the Liberian Public Procurement and Concessions Commission (PPCC) and the Liberian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (LEITI); in collaboration with the Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC) and Affiliated Network for Social Accountability (ANSA).

Addressing the official opening of the sub-regional *Contract Monitoring Meeting*, the Country Manager of the World Bank, Dr. Ohene Owusu Nyanin reminded participants that "all participating countries are natural resource-based economies, that must stressed the importance of contract monitoring to ensure that efficient use and management of resources improves the wellbeing of their people".

Also speaking during the meeting, the newly appointed Chairman of the National Investment Commission, Natty B. Davies noted that the "West African Contract Monitoring is an important step in helping countries to engage in natural resource negotiations."

The meeting, which brings together 70 key reform-oriented stakeholders from public, private and civil society sectors from Liberia, Ghana, Sierra Leone, and Nigeria, is the start of a two-year program on contract monitoring that will strengthen and support multi-stakeholder coalitions (comprised of civil society, government, and the private sector) that will monitor the award and implementation of contracts. These will include coalitions specializing in monitoring of oil, gas and mining deals that are so critical to the economies of all four countries.

