

PRESS STATEMENT – November 2009

The Negative Impacts of Canadian Extractive Industry Operating in Tanzania

We, the Church Leaders representing the Constituents of the Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC), the Muslim Council of Tanzania (BAKWATA), and the Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT) involved in Natural Resource Management programmes and looking into how Tanzania can make the most out of the Extractive Industry could be a boost towards sustainable development from the Grassroots up to the national level through Research, Advocacy and social mobilisation under the theme “*Mining for Life*”.

We hereby proclaim and affirm our prophetic voice according to the word of God in the Holy Scriptures that, “*The earth is the LORD’S, and all its fullness,*” (see Psalm 24:1). With this Scriptural truth we are persuaded that the wealth under the Tanzanian soil is given by God through grand design to benefit the people of Tanzania. A truth which we are not ready to stop talking about until justice is accorded to each and every Tanzanian Child.

We acknowledge that a lot of injustices and violation of human rights and degradation of human dignity has penetrated various sectors of our society including the church, private sector as well as government institutions.

Whereas over the past few years Tanzania has seen drastic changes in the socioeconomic circles and political arena; the impact of rising levels of poverty and environmental degradation is felt more irrespective of the sheer fact that Tanzania is one of the richest countries in the world with respect to massive deposits of Natural resources, e.g. Precious Metals and stones including vibrant natural forest.

We acknowledged but with great disappointment how the local community members in the mining areas in Tanzania; especially where Canadian Extractive Industries operate are subjected to gross Human Rights violations and shocking environmental pollution irrespective of the claims that “Canada maintains excellent relations with Tanzania, and ...provides core assistance to the government of Tanzania, plus specific support for democratic governance. We share many political values and ‘work jointly in fostering our common goals, particularly on peace and security.’”

With the widely advertised and known, “Significant Canadian investment in Tanzania” and a “number of Canadian companies is active in Tanzania, particularly in the mining and energy sectors;” it is surprising that there is NO visible development even in the local communities hosting the Canadian Extractive industry in our country.

Instead we see:

- i. Gross Human Rights Violations
- ii. High Levels of environmental degradation and pollution
- iii. Interferences from the Canadian Government on policy formulation and review processes with respect to mineral act
- iv. Interference from Canadian Extractive Industry Operating in Tanzania interfering with lawsuits against such companies on
 - a. Irresponsibility on Environmental issues

- b. Lack of compensation to the local community members evicted from ancestral and traditional lands
- c. Deaths and health hazards which comes as the direct result of Canadian Companies in the extractive Industry operating in Tanzania
- d. Impunity and above-the-law attitude of Canada's extractive Industry operating in Tanzania, which results in high levels of corruption at the highest authority levels within the government weakening political will
- e. Perpetual Intimidation against members of the Civil Society/Faith Based Organisations, Media and political parties talking against such injustices
- f. Deliberate refusal to conduct and support independent investigations in the allegations of socioeconomic injustices, and
- g. Threats to leave the country and or sell the mine sites whenever their injustices are revealed, for example on the recent Toxic sludge spill in the North Mara's Tighithe River and the subsequent research findings commissioned by the faith Based Organisations in Tanzania.

With the above concerns, which we have witnessed and have at many times attempted dialogue with the Canadian Extractive Industries in Tanzania with no success; we ask the Canadian government to:

- i. Come up with Transparent and inclusive, and human welfare centred policies to govern extractive industry from Canada in other countries
- ii. Instruct the Canadian Extractive Industries operating abroad to adopt the public participatory strategy in respect with the extractive industry operating abroad as a measure to control the high corruption levels surrounding contracts and collection of revenues
- iii. Support the government and other governments in Africa where Canadian Extractive Industry operates to have sustainable development oriented policies for all partnering countries in the extractive Industry

We are not against Foreign Direct Investment in our country or Africa in general but we are against deliberate looting of our resources to strengthen other economies but not Tanzanian, Irresponsibility on environment and the continuing antagonism and loss of life among the people of Tanzania.

With these words we implore the government of Canada to be the true friend and development partner to Tanzania in the exploration and exploitation of our natural resources to the benefit of our people and the investor in our natural resource rich fields.

TEC

BAKWATA

CCT