



CHRISTIAN COUNCIL OF TANZANIA
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YOUR REF. No.

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DATE:

CCT/GS/UCC/42

7th March, 2017

Hon. Justin Trudeau,
Prime minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A2
Justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Dear Sir,

RE: JUSTIFICATION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INDEPENDENT HUMAN RIGHTS OMBUDSPERSON

Reference is made to the heading above.

Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT) is a registered ecumenical organization working in Tanzania since 1934. The organization has been advocating for the transparency, accountability and respect of human rights in extractive sector in Tanzania since 2007. We have been following up from our partner United Church of Canada on what is going on regarding the establishment of independent human rights ombudsperson. We wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the Canadian government for thinking of establishing this particular committee which will, among others, allow greater transparency and accountability of Canadian extractives companies working in Canada and across the world.

Tanzania is blessed with a lot of minerals and has several national and multinational companies working in this extractive sector. Some of the multinational companies are Canadian for example Acacia which was formally Barrick Gold. Since 2007, CCT has been advocating for transparency in taxation, transparency in mining contracts, protection of environment, human rights issues and corporate social responsibility. Some of the issues in the extractive sector which CCT has been advocating for includes illicit financial flows by companies, transportation of unprocessed sand outside Tanzania, compensation for the people whose land have been acquired to allow mining activities, pollution of water sources in mining areas, killings and torture of the people who are taken as intruders in mining areas and abuse of human rights.

Currently, the government has stopped the transportation of unprocessed sand in the country which is believed to have other precious minerals. Farther, the government introduced the Tanzania Extractive Initiative transparency (TEITI) as a mechanism to enforce transparency in taxation. In order that



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TEITI gets enough information on all resource extraction, it needs to get the extractives contract made open and accessible to the public in order to ensure accountability and transparency. But to date the government and companies have failed to make these agreements accessible to the public and nobody knows what is written in these contracts.

We therefore, strongly support the Canadian government on the idea of establishing an independent Ombudsperson. This is because it will help us to get information to support our advocacy on resource extractive industry in different issues as it will enhance participation of different stakeholders, investigation on complained issues, provide independent reports, give recommendations and monitor compliance of the recommendations.

We hope that the Canadian Government will establish this ombudsperson timely and supports its work for the accountability and transparency of the Canadian extractive companies across the world. CCT will be ready to cooperate and network with this ombudsperson for the benefit of our country and elsewhere where this person will be working.

Thank you for your understanding and we look forward to see the Ombudsperson established in a near future.

Sincerely:

Rev. Dr. Leonard A. Mtaita

GENERAL SECRETARY CCT

On behalf of the members of Interfaith Standing Committee on Economic Justice and Integrity of Creation.

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