

Three Beneficiaries of Mittal Identify Development Priorities

The Inquirer (Monrovia)

NEWS 22 November 2007 Posted to the web 22 November 2007

With funding from the Department for International Development (DFID), Search for Common Ground/Talking Studio has concluded three Town Hall Meetings in the three counties that share in the three-million Mittal Steel development funds.

The meetings were part of Search for Common Ground/ Talking Drum Studio's work contributing to the nation's governance and development reform agenda.

The purpose of the Town Hall Meetings was to create the platform for the exchange of views between the citizens and their leaders on how the allotment provided to each of the three counties under the Mittal Steel agreement will be used and the mechanism put in place for proper accountability.

The Town Hall Meetings held in Saclepea, Buchanan, and Gbarnga brought together Senators, Representatives, Superintendents, Elders and a cross section of citizens.

In Nimba County, there was a general consensus that the rehabilitation of farm to market roads be the number one development priority.

In Grand Bassa County, the Citizens proposed that the one million dollars given to the county by Mittal Steel yearly be used for the construction of a junior college and the rehabilitation of roads.

The citizens of Bong County and their leaders decided that the five hundred thousand dollars for the county be expended on the rehabilitation of roads, and the improvement of the education and health sectors to ensure accountability and the proper expenditure of the money, Bong County Citizens agreed to meet twice a month to get feedback on the implementation of the projects earmarked.

Search for Common Ground Country Director, Oscar Bloh said the meetings were intended to make the citizens a part of their counties' development agenda.

Copyright © 2007 The Inquirer. All rights reserved. Distributed by AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com).

1 of 1 11/27/07 5:30 PM