

Ghana oil legislation expected in May

Accra, 24 March (Argus) — Legislation to regulate **Ghana's** oil production and revenue controls is likely to be passed when parliament reconvenes in May, oil minister Joe Oteng-Adjei has said. The legislation will pave the way for production to start from the offshore Jubilee field in the final quarter of this year.

The proposed bills have been expected for some time, but Oteng-Adjei said the government is determined to ensure that the regulatory system serves the country's needs.

The minister earlier told a conference in Accra that the government is aware of the need for proper legal regimes to guide the industry and has taken steps to put in place a system to guard against corruption and environmental destruction.

Oteng-Adjei said the government's desire to create a transparent environment for the emerging oil industry means that it will sign up to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), which hitherto only covered the mining sector.

The government is also working on setting up a regulatory body to ensure the smooth running of the industry, Oteng-Adjei said, while the oil ministry is working with the science ministry on guidelines for the Environmental Protection Agency to enforce on oil spillage prevention.