



Public Utility Workers' Union of TUC - Ghana

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APPOINTMENT OF TRANSACTION ADVISOR TO FACILITATE PSP IN ECG BY GOVERNMENT; SHOW OF BAD OF FAITH

The Public Utilities Workers Union (PUWU) of TUC has observed with keen interest the posture of government regarding the intended PSP in Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG) and the Northern Electricity Distribution Company (NEDCo).

Our last interaction with the Ministry of Energy and Green Transition was for PUWU to submit its proposed alternative to PSP in ECG. The usual engagements with the Ministry of Energy and Green Transition after the Union responded to the Ministry's request to present a comprehensive alternative solution to the challenges confronting ECG was stalled. Although the Union submitted a detailed position paper against the proposed privatisation of ECG and NEDCo, the Ministry is yet to acknowledge receipt of the document. Meanwhile, it has proceeded to appoint a Transaction Advisor who is actively holding meetings and advancing Government's privatisation agenda.

The budget statement presented by the Honourable Minister of Finance reemphasised government intention and timelines set to privatise ECG without considering the representation and position paper submitted to the Minister of Energy and Just Transition by the Union.

We view this action as a breach of the mutual trust and confidence that has characterised all engagements between the Union and the Ministry.

PUWU's position paper highlighted several key challenges affecting ECG and NEDCo, including political interference in management and procurement processes; the appointment of non-technical Board Members; uncoordinated Self-Help Electrification Programme (SHEP) activities; foreign exchange losses; the recent reclassification of bulk customers; and a lack of accountability and transparency across the energy supply value chain. To address these challenges, the Union proposed practical and workable solutions aimed at improving the

operational efficiency, financial viability, and long-term sustainability of the two state-owned utilities.

The Union believes that the historical shortcomings of privatisation efforts in Ghana and across Africa demonstrate that transferring public utilities such as ECG and NEDCo to private investors in the name of PSP often worsens existing inefficiencies, increases costs to consumers, reduces access to essential services, and undermines national sovereignty, employment, labour rights, and energy security. PUWU therefore advocates a strategic approach that addresses the root causes of inefficiency, including the appointment of competent Board of Directors and Managing Directors with clearly defined performance targets, the depoliticization of management structures, and enhanced accountability throughout the energy value chain.

PUWU calls on all stakeholders, including the Government of Ghana and the Ministry of Energy and Green Transition, to prioritise the long-term interests of the Ghanaians by ensuring that ECG and NEDCo remain under public ownership and control. The Union expresses the view that this will guarantee affordable and equitable access to electricity, preserve national sovereignty, protect jobs, and support broader socio-economic development.

Rather than pursuing privatisation as a quick-fix solution, PUWU maintains that a comprehensive reform strategy aimed at strengthening ECG and NEDCo as public utilities will better safeguard Ghana's energy future while promoting growth, resilience, and prosperity for all.

PUWU therefore reiterates its strongest opposition to any attempt to privatise ECG and NEDCo in whole or in part. Together with all affiliates of the Trades Union Congress (TUC), the Union is prepared to mobilise every legitimate means available to resist any policy initiative that seeks to transfer ownership or control of these strategic national assets to private interests.

Despite our stated opposition to privatisation, PUWU remains optimistic and stands ready to partner Government and all relevant stakeholders in efforts to revitalise ECG, NEDCo, and the wider energy sector for the benefit of Ghana and Ghanaians.

For PUWU of TUC (Gh)



TIMOTHY NYAME

GENERAL SECRETARY