



ELECTORAL COMMISSION  
GHANA

15<sup>th</sup> February, 2018.

The Executive Secretary  
PURC  
P.O. Box CT 3095  
Cantonments  
Accra.



Dear Sir,

**SUBMISSION OF ELECTORAL COMMISSION'S PAPER ON YOUR REQUEST FOR  
STAKEHOLDER SUBMISSIONS IN RESPECT OF ELECTRICITY AND WATER  
TARIFFS.**

Please accept the compliments of the Chairperson and members of the Commission.

I hereby forward to you the Electoral Commission's paper in respect of the subject above.

Kindly accept our sincerest apology for the delayed submission as the paper had to be scrutinized and approved prior to submission.

Any inconvenience is deeply regretted.

Thank you.

**CHRISTIAN OWUSU-PARRY  
DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION  
for: CHAIRPERSON**

*Anita  
Pls scan and  
submit to  
Charles.  
MRS  
15/2/18*

*for the people*



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# **REQUEST FOR STAKEHOLDER SUBMISSIONS IN RESPECT OF ELECTRICITY AND WATER TARIFFS**

## **PAPER SUBMITTED BY THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The provision of water and electricity is not only essential for the growth of industries but also for the proper functioning of institutions and the wellbeing of the people. No institution today can function efficiently without regular supply of electricity and water at affordable prices. These utilities are affordable when they are provided by the state and hence, it is important that in pricing these utilities, great care is taken so as to ensure that acquiring them does not become a challenge to any institutions if they are to function efficiently. The effort by the Public Utilities Regulatory Commission (PURC) to have stakeholder consultation in the determination of tariffs is, therefore, a step in the right direction.

### **THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION AS AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE PROVIDER**

The Electoral Commission (EC) is an institution created by the Constitution of Ghana and established by the Electoral Commission Act, 1993, Act 451. Under the Constitution and the law, the EC, is charged with the responsibility of conducting all public elections and referenda by ensuring that all the processes, as laid down in the Constitution and the law, are in place and are rigidly followed.

Modern day democracy and good governance thrive on elections. Elections have thus become the most acceptable and legitimate vehicle for choosing the leaders of a nation and which policies, as contained in the manifestos of competing political parties, are favoured by the people. In the absence of a clearly determined mode of selection of a nation's leaders, autocracies emerge and chaos ultimately results.

The body that oversees the electoral process and ensures that democracy works must be considered as delivering essential service. The EC is thus, an essential service provider.

The EC has offices at all the regional capitals of Ghana as well as all the districts in the country. The Commission, on a daily basis, undertakes activities that ensure that people's rights under Article 42 of the Constitution are protected. In addition, it has become the de-facto agency for the conduct of elections for a host of organizations and institutions not mentioned under the Constitution or the law. This is primarily due to the trust and confidence people have in the EC. Scarcely a day passes without hordes of people trooping to one office, or the other, of the Commission to request for the replacement of a lost or damaged voter ID card. The banks, the

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority and many other institutions and the citizens generally, are benefitting immensely from this service.

### **EC REVENUE SOURCES**

The Commission is a subvented organization that depends wholly on the public purse to finance its expenditure. This includes settling water and electricity bills. Water and electricity tariffs have been increasing rather rapidly to the extent that the budget of EC has not kept pace with such increases. The effect is a huge debt of unpaid bills due to insufficient budgetary allocation.

The consequence is a frequent disconnection of power and water supply to the offices of the Commission at national, regional and district levels. This mostly affects service delivery at all levels to the disappointment of the public who require our services the most.

### **ASSESSMENT OF EC FOR PURPOSES OF BILLING**

Checks with the service providers indicate that there are only two categories of utility consumers; consumers on commercial rate and those on domestic rate. The checks also showed that the Commission is on commercial rate despite the fact that it is not a profit making organization. This accounts for the high bills that the Commission receives from the two service providers. As indicated elsewhere in this paper, the Commission is an essential service provider and any setback due to inability to pay for power and water supplied goes against the public to whom such services are rendered.

In the interest of the public, who we serve, we appeal to the PURC to consider a reduced tariff for subvented organizations that render service to the public. The PURC may consider putting the EC on domestic rate with a view to making the rates affordable to the Commission.

### **INSTALLATION OF PREPAID METERS**

The Commission is concerned about the installation of prepaid meters in some Regional and District offices of the Commission. This concern arises out of the fact that the Commission pays for these services out of the limited funds it receives from Government. On many occasions, disbursement of these funds from Government of Ghana delay to the extent that power and water supply are interrupted and work comes to a standstill. It would be beneficial to both the EC and the public if post-paid meters are installed all through. This will ensure continuity of service in the face of delayed disbursements as the Commission takes the necessary steps to pay such bills.

## CONCLUSION

The Commission appreciates the need to pay for all utility services and would cooperate with the service providers to ensure that both users and providers mutually benefit from such services.

However, the reality on the ground is that of a Commission faced with challenges based on the current level of tariffs. The prevailing rates are already too high and unless they are reviewed downwards, the Commission may soon find it difficult rendering service to the public, especially the daily replacement of lost voter ID cards, as provision of utility services are curtailed due to inability to pay bills regularly.

Thank you.