

Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 10:22 AM

To: Comments Desk <comments@nerc.gov.ng>

Subject: REQUEST FOR INTERVENORS FOR THE REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT PLANS AND EXTRA ORDINARY TARIFF REVIEW APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED BY DISCOS AND TCN

Please refer to your publication in Daily Trust of November 19,2019 in respect of the above subject matter.

My name is Engr Emeka Ezeh OFR, former President, Nigerian Society of Engineers and former Director General, Bureau of Public Procurement. My interest in the proceedings stem from the fact that I was a member of Presidential Action Committee on Power and took part in the policy thrust and development of the power sector and as an engineer I charged the National Energy Master plan. I have therefore sufficient interest to see how the policies I helped put in place have improved efficiency of the power sector as the out come will go a long way in further policy reviews and modifications.

My concern however is that there has not been visible improvement in terms of hours of availability of power or improvement in response to faults. What we have is a case of helplessness in the hands of private monopoly. Unlike the telecon sector where I can easily migrate to another network if I am not satisfied with the services of a network. I couldnt migrate to another provider in a wired sector like the power sector. As a matter of fact my experiences in Lagos, Abuja and Anambra suggest that we made a mistake in the privatization process. Estimated bills are brought in the morning and before you knew it the services are disconnected same day for non payment. Attempts to get prepaid metres are frustrated by internal bureaucracy even more cumbersome than the public sector. There were all manners of touts hanging around the disco offices offering to assist. I refused to patronize them and went without metres for years with the blackmail of monthly charge of N17000.00 for a house that was not occupied and without regular power supply. It took me getting to the CEOs before I could get metres for the house in Lagos. Interaction with the staff of the Discos revealed that they were under pressure to get revenues for energy losses from illegal connections but unfortunately they are not under pressure to respond to faults.

In Abuja where I live in Karu, the story is even worse. It is either feeder 4 or one thing or the other as story day in day out. The power supllly declined from 14 hours when in hands of the public to about 7hours as at today. Their unofficial reason given is that they are focusing on areas where they get paid as in Maitama, Asokoro etc. The reasons for power outages are never given. They will bring power say by 10 pm and take it at 5am and in some cases bring it at 7pm and take at 9pm. So going by the reasons for privatization, they have not justified the need for any increase. One of phases in the transformer serving me dropped and till date they connected us with temporary wire claiming that they have no materials in the store.

While they are quick in disconnecting people for faulty metres, they are slow in replacing the metres. You as a customer is held responsible for faulty metre installed by them.

In general efficiency has not been achieved in the privatization process from my own experience. However it is observed that the Naira was devalued by almost 100% after the privatization in 2015, and the tariff has remained same while substantial expenditure is in foreign exchange, there is need to design a system to compel the Discos to provide power to its metred customers. On the whole discos have not done better than the public sector in managing the power assets. They have not invested sufficiently to improve on what they inherited from PHCN .

Engr Ezech OFR