



**CONSUMER RIGHTS ADVOCACY DEPARTMENT**

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February 17, 2020

The Chairman,  
Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission,  
Plot 1387, Cadastral Zone AOO,  
Central Business District,  
Abuja.

Dear Sir,

**REQUEST TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCEEDINGS AS AN  
INTERVENOR DURING NERC HEARING IN IBADAN**

The Initiative for Sustainable Infrastructure Development wishes to make an expression of interest to participate in NERC hearing panel on Notice of Applications for Tariff Review for Electricity Distribution Companies and TCN. However, NERC publication in Punch Newspaper dated Friday February 14, 2020 on the above caption humbly refers.

(1) The Nigerian Populace has been groaning for survival economically and socially and this prevalent trend needs to be checked by an organisation like ours because of the consequential effect on ordinary Nigerians. Meanwhile, as we brace up for the increase in electricity tariff in April, 2020, most of us are sad, shocked and disheartened, because the services being rendered by the electricity service providers, despite expectation of having adequate and reliable power supply.

Daily protest, wailing/cry through various advertorial on newspaper pages does not seem to have any positive effect.

Indeed, most companies have wound up their various activities in the country with the concomitant effect on unemployment which has hitherto results to

increase in restiveness, namely, robbery, banditry, kidnapping among others. Infact, the rate of insecurity in Nigeria is very alarming.

(2) This organization has observed with dismay since the privatization of power industry that the DISCOS have performed woefully.

As empowered in Electricity Power Sector reform Act 2005, NERC is to ensure an efficiently managed electricity industry that meets the yearnings of Nigerians for stable, adequate and safe electricity supply, item 15 of the responsibility of the commission, under consumer rights and obligations section states “It is not the responsibility of Electricity customer or community to buy, replace or repair electricity transformers, poles and related equipment used in the supply of electricity”. But this is not the experience of customers. Customers buy poles, cable and meters. Customers contribute money to buy or replace the community transformer. As soon as these are done, the items automatically become DISCO’s Property as letters of undertaken for the transfer of such items will be requested from customers as a condition before it would be energized. Moreso, there have been no REFUND ON INVESTMENT on such transaction.

Furthermore, we wish to register our displeasure, disaffection and discontentment, that despite the fact that meters are to be provided to customers but Ibadan DISCO failed. And customers got their meters (UNISTAR) from UNISTAR company but Ibadan DISCO refused to programme them. Infact there was a ruling by Federal High Court, that the meter is not an illegal one, but Ibadan DISCO refuses to comply which we think is an affront to a properly constituted authority. Something they supposed to have provided, a customer spent his money and resources to purchase and it was not programmed, indeed, we weep for this nation.

This organization wish to state here that the DISCOS have not done meaningful infrastructure development in the country, the intervention fund from

government to them is just a waste and NERC lacks effective, efficient and efficacious supervisory role.

The big question is that where are the materials purchased, where have they installed transformers e.t.c. Most, transformers in circulations were the ones bought through communal effort, donation by politicians, and the one provided by organization as corporate social responsibility.

As a non-governmental organization we have myriads of complains from various parts of Nigeria and indeed Ibadan DISCO to this effect. It is not an overstatement that there is virtually no community in Ibadan and Oyo State in general that house owners and tenants do not tax themselves to buying and maintain electricity infrastructure. Those who cannot afford electricity equipment stay in darkness, in most cases for years.

It is sad that efforts made to see most of their departmental Heads like Chief Commercial Officer and Chief Technical Officer to register displeasure, observation, findings and recommendation always proved futile as we are always being termed as an unwanted visitor, with responses namely Oga is busy, he is on phone, among others. We wish to state here that the reports from most DISCOS are misleading as regards the provision of electricity infrastructures as they publish false projects in the media, which are at variance with what are actually obtainable in various communities.

The DISCOS give this misleading my reports to justify intervention fund and increase in electricity tariff. Their top officers cook up the books to reflect false infrastructural upgrade projects, highly inflated to show that the company is working, whereas the reverse is the case. Transformers and injection substation are not being maintained in accordance with the best practices, but they are always painted and polished for deception, very recently, the CBN governor Dr. Godwin Emefiele stated that electricity in Nigeria is too costly with the adverse effect on manufacturers and services.

Another thing is that the government has not given proper attention to DISCOS. How can a government have 40percent share and you have only one board member among seven on the board.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Without sentiment, to resolve the problem of power in Nigeria, the government through his agency NERC, NEMSA among others must first love the citizens genuinely and be determined to be responsible.

The prevalent tariff is even on the high side. Therefore we say no to further increase in tariff.

Finally, if the tariff is given an upward review, this organization with myriad of other NGO, Student Unions, Market Women,1 Associations etc shall mobilize a mass protest against this anti-masses policy.



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