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## **GUTA REACTS TO INCREASE IN UTILITIES TARIFF**

The Ghana Union of Traders' Associations (GUTA) wishes to vehemently react to the decision of the Public Utilities Regulatory Commission to review the Utilities Tariff upward based on the reasons they stated for the increment.

For us, these reasons do not hold water. we appreciate the fact that life is not static, changes are inevitable when they are necessary but not at the whim of any particular body.

It is an open secret that there are alot of wastages in the management of electricity and water, which every well-meaning Ghanaian will attest to this plain truth.

Some of which are:

1. Inflating the cost of purchases and other charges for individual benefits to the detriment of the state.
2. Ineffective system of collection of bills from defaulters, especially from the state institutions, resulting in outstanding debts, which are eventually and unfairly passed on to other consumers, of the Utilities, thereby surcharging domestic and commercial consumers in the country for these inefficiencies.
3. There is also the issue of illegal connections and the failure by the utility service providers to tackle these criminal acts with the seriousness it deserves to deter such offenders.
4. Failure by the Public Utilities and Regulatory Commission to effectively monitor, evaluate and scrutinize the operations and management of the Utility Service providers to ensure value for money and protect the public purse against corruption and other related means of siphoning of state funds into individual private pockets at the expense of the state.
5. A clear case in point is the ongoing brouhaha and furor about the over one thousand missing ECG containers some of which were intercepted in the Central Region and some found in the premises of a manufacturing company in Tema. This is to only mention a few.

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**BANKERS : GCB BANK / REPUBLIC BANK**

**MOTTO: GUTA, Our Business**

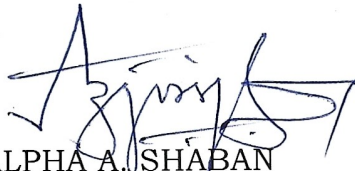
If indeed the Public Utilities Regulatory Commission is strict on the management of these utility Service Providers to ensure there is value for money, most of the wastages due to combination of factors, including stealing and stealing related cases could have been halted, save those revenue to support the Private Sector, especially, our local industries and the agriculture sector to be able to cut down cost of production, produce more at competitive price, help reduce importation, stabilize our economy and take care of our currency depreciation and food inflation.

It appears the Public Sector is now being turned into a gold mine, where every public and/or Civil Servant takes advantage of to enrich him/her self within a short period of time.

This does not augur well for this country and must cease immediately if we really want to develop economically.

Undoubtedly, Ghana is endowed with superfluous resources – human and material that can easily catapult the nation into economic advancement. So, GUTA is asking the state actors to sit up, collaborate with all relevant stakeholders, harness all available resources, and leverage them for our national development, than living in this seeming poverty and squalor in the midst of plenty.

We, therefore appeal to the government to focus much attention on this negative attitude to Public Service, identify all those who steal, divert, misappropriate, misapply and/or loot state funds or property and deal with them decisively to recover all stolen properties of the state.



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