



# Public Utility Workers' Union of TUC - Ghana

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **PRESS STATEMENT BY THE PUBLIC UTILITY WORKERS UNION ON RECENT PUBLIC THREATS BY STATE, POLITICAL, AND SOCIAL ACTORS AGAINST ECG STAFF**

The Public Utility Workers Union (PUWU) OF TUC has noted, with grave concern, an emerging trend of certain officials issuing public threats against staff of the Electricity company of Ghana Ltd. (ECG) as a purported response to recent power outages affecting parts of the country.

These threats, which include calls for the transfer and/or dismissal of ECG staff, insinuate that the outages being experienced are the result of deliberate sabotage by employees, rather than underlying technical and infrastructural challenges.

The Union wishes to state categorically that ECG staff are consummate professionals who work tirelessly, often with resource scarcity, yet deliver services to the Company's valued customers. As you may know, ECG has suffered from years of chronic underinvestment, resulting in the shortage of critical materials and equipment necessary to ensure the reliability of electricity supply.

The urgent need for investment into the Company's operations, and for the procurement of critical technical materials including transformers, poles and cables has been acknowledged by senior Government officials including His Excellency President John Dramani Mahama at the 'Kwahu Business Forum' earlier this month. The Minister of Energy and Green Transition similarly acknowledged it when he announced that Government is facilitating the procurement of 1,500 transformers to augment those currently deployed in the field, many of which are already overloaded or approaching overload capacity.

In Ashanti Region, for instance, technical reports confirm that frequent outages persist because peak load demand in the region far exceeds the combined capacity of the three Bulk Supply Points (BSPs) currently in operation. A fourth BSP, intended to relieve the region of this excess demand, has remained on the drawing board for years without being

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*All communications should be addressed to  
The General Secretary*

actualized. This infrastructural gap leaves the network chronically susceptible to faults under the strain of overloading. The Acting Managing Director Ing. Kwame Kpekpena on a working visit to the region, acknowledged this and told the press that work was in progress to solve the current challenges.

Similarly, in the Volta and Oti Regions, electricity demand has grown beyond the capacity of the installed High Voltage transmission lines (69kV), resulting in under voltages, voltage fluctuations and frequent power outages in major towns and industrial areas, particularly during peak hours. The transmission lines need an upgrade from 69kV to 161kV. This is clearly an infrastructure deficit which needs Government support and is not the fault of the technically competent staff of ECG as it is being insinuated by some political figures and communicators.

Against this backdrop of well-documented technical and infrastructural challenges, the Union find it deeply troubling that certain political, state and media actors in Ashanti Region (Regional Chairman of the NDC) and other parts of Ghana and beyond will publicly threaten to compel the transfer of engineers who are duly employed and rendering professional services, as though these professionals are personally responsible for the outages customers experience. The calling of names of some staff of ECG in the Western Region as saboteurs of the government without any evidence or reporting to appropriate authorities clearly expose these staff who are routinely required to enter communities at all hours to attend to customer complaints, to attacks and public ridicule. Such threats create disquiet among staff, undermine staff morale, and disrupt industrial harmony.

The Union wishes to serve notice that we will act decisively in the interest of our members to protect their safety, dignity and wellbeing always. We call on all actors, especially those wielding political influence, to refrain from making disparaging public remarks about ECG staff, and to utilize established corporate channels to raise any concerns they may have regarding the conduct of individual staff or groups of staff in the discharge of their duties.

The Union will resist, with all our might and through every means available, any attempt at undue political interference in the professional operations of the Company. We reaffirm that the professionalism and integrity of our members remain a cardinal value that neither the Unions nor our members will ever compromise.

Yours faithfully,  
**FOR: PUWU OF TUC-GHANA**

  
**TIMOTHY NYAME**  
**GENERAL SECRETARY**