

PRESS STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY RANKING MEMBER, ENERGY COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT, HON. COLLINS ADOMAKO MENSAH, ON THE PURC'S LATEST ELECTRICITY TARIFF INCREASE EFFECTIVE 1ST JULY, 2026

Ladies and gentlemen of the press, good morning.

I address you today with deep concern and a sense of betrayal on behalf of every Ghanaian who went to the polls in December 2024 and voted for change, for relief, and for a government that promised to ease the cost of living.

On 22nd June, 2026, the Public Utilities Regulatory Commission (PURC) announced yet another upward adjustment in electricity tariffs. A 3.49% increase, effective 1st July, 2026, with water tariffs also going up by 0.85%. This is the latest chapter in an unbroken story of tariff escalation under the John Mahama-led NDC administration.

We remember the promises. The NDC campaigned loudly on reducing the cost of utilities, easing the burden on households, and fixing the energy sector. Eighteen months into their tenure, Ghanaians are paying 26.82% more for electricity than they were when President Mahama took the oath of office. That is a broken promise.

THE SCALE OF THE PROBLEM: WHAT THE NUMBERS SAY

Since the NDC government took office in January 2025, Ghanaians have faced a relentless cycle of utility tariff increases. The cumulative data paints a stark and indefensible picture:

PERIOD	ELECTRICITY ADJUSTMENT
Q2 2025	+14.75
Q3 2025	+2.45%
Q4 2025	+1.14%
Q1 2026	+9.8%
Q2 2026	-4.81%
Q3 2026	+3.49%
CUMULATIVE	26.82% (less Q2 2026)

THE Q2 REDUCTION

Much talk accompanied the PURC's second-quarter 2026 announcement of a 4.81% reduction in electricity tariffs, effective April 1, 2026. Government communicators, NDC foot soldiers, and sympathetic media were dispatched to sing the praises of President Mahama's 'economic turnaround.' Ministers took to airwaves declaring victory. We cautioned then that this was not a policy achievement but a quarterly technical adjustment driven entirely by a temporary appreciation of the Ghana cedi and a brief statistical dip in inflation.

With this latest 3.49% increase taking effect on 1st July, 2026, that supposed second-quarter relief has been effectively erased within a single quarter of its announcement. The NDC's loudly talked

about 'reduction' has lasted exactly 91 days. Electricity tariffs now stand higher than they did before the so-called reduction, and water tariffs are also heading upward by 0.85%. Ghanaians were given a temporary breather, only to have it snatched back.

A BURDEN GHANAIS CAN NO LONGER BEAR

To put these numbers in context: since January 2025, electricity tariffs in Ghana have risen by a staggering cumulative 26.82%. Over the same period, government awarded workers a meagre 10% wage increase — less than a third of the tariff burden placed on those very same workers. The NDC came to power promising a 24-hour economy and reduced cost of living. What they have delivered is a 26.82% increase in the cost of keeping the lights on.

Consider also what this means for industry. Ghana's manufacturers, processors and small enterprises operate in one of the most tariff-burdened utility environments in West Africa. Every upward adjustment in electricity costs erodes their competitiveness, raises the cost of production, and ultimately pushes prices higher for the very consumers the NDC claims to be protecting. The 24-hour economy cannot run on 26.82% more expensive electricity. Jobs cannot be created when the cost of powering a factory keeps climbing every quarter.

The PURC cites the following economic indicators to justify the latest Q3 2026 increase:

- A cedi-dollar exchange rate of GHS11.2228 to US\$1, a 0.2% depreciation from the prior quarter, and a natural gas cost of \$7.9708 per MMBtu.
- Natural gas costs, cited at **\$7.9708 per MMBtu**, have actually *decreased* by 1.58% from the prior quarter, yet tariffs are going *up* by 3.49%;
- The generation mix of **20.9% hydro, 79.1% thermal** remained completely unchanged from the prior quarter, meaning no new cost pressures arose from that front either;

We ask: if the Ghana cedi depreciated by only 0.2% between quarters, how does this justify a 3.49% increase in electricity tariffs? The mathematical justification simply does not hold up, and Ghanaians deserve a transparent, verifiable explanation not a formulaic press release.

THE IMF EXCUSE NO LONGER HOLDS

We anticipate that government communicators will, as they have done before, attempt to shield themselves behind the IMF programme negotiated by the previous NPP administration, arguing that utility tariff increases are conditions of an inherited agreement and therefore beyond their control.

Ghana has formally exited the IMF Extended Credit Facility programme. The conditionalities that accompanied that programme, including requirements around cost-reflective utility tariffs expired with it. The NDC government is no longer bound by any IMF obligation to raise electricity or water tariffs. They are free. That excuse is gone.

What Ghanaians are now witnessing is therefore a deliberate policy choice. This administration has continued to allow the PURC to impose quarterly tariff increases on citizens who were promised relief. **It is therefore safe to say that this is the NDC's tariff regime, chosen freely and felt painfully by every Ghanaian.**

OUR DEMANDS

The Minority Caucus calls on the NDC government and the PURC to take the following urgent steps:

- Publish, in clear and accessible language, the full mathematical basis for every tariff increase since January 2025;
- Ensure that any future tariff adjustment is accompanied by verifiable improvement in service quality, particularly in addressing the prepaid meter depletion scandal, the persistent power outages, and ECG's billing irregularities;
- Revisit the 2026–2030 Multi-Year Tariff Order (MYTO), which imposed a 9.86% electricity increase at the start of 2026, in light of emerging macroeconomic improvements that the PURC itself has acknowledged.

CONCLUSION

Government has repeatedly pointed to the appreciation of the cedi, declining inflation and lower interest rates as evidence that the economy has turned the corner. If those gains are genuine, Ghanaians should be experiencing them in their daily lives.

The electricity sector depends heavily on thermal generation, whose principal inputs, imported crude oil and imported natural gas, are priced in foreign currency. A cedi that has appreciated by nearly 40% should significantly reduce the domestic cost of these imports. Falling inflation and easing interest rates should further reduce cost pressures across the economy.

Yet PURC is increasing electricity tariffs once again.

This contradiction demands answers. If the strength of the cedi is real, if the decline in inflation is real, and if the reduction in interest rates reflects genuine macroeconomic improvement, why are utility tariffs continuing to rise? What exactly is driving these increases?

The Ghanaian people deserve more than broad economic headlines. They deserve full transparency. Until that explanation is provided, Ghanaians will be justified in asking whether the celebrated economic gains are being artificially sustained while households and businesses continue to bear the burden of rising utility costs.

The people of Ghana deserve better. We will continue to demand transparency, accountability, and utility pricing that reflects the true state of the economy.

We therefore say to President Mahama and the NDC government plainly: you cannot celebrate a 4.81% reduction in April and remain silent when a 3.49% increase follows in July. You own this tariff regime. You appointed the leadership of PURC. You set the policy environment. You are accountable for every pesewa increase on every electricity bill in Ghana.

The Minority will continue to hold this government and the PURC accountable for every unjustified tariff increase imposed on the Ghanaian people. We call on all citizens, civil society organisations, trade unions, industry associations and our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to demand transparent, fair, and evidence-based utility regulation. The 2028 elections are not far away, and Ghanaians will remember.

The people of Ghana deserve better. We will ensure they get it.

You cannot keep increasing the pressure on the tap and hand Ghanaians a basket to fetch the water this tariff regime leaks more than it delivers.

Thank you.