

PETITION OF THE RESIDENTS OF REGION 9

GUYANA

COUNTY OF DEMERARA

**TO: The National Assembly of the Parliament
of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana
Public Buildings
Georgetown**

THE HUMBLE PETITION of the Residents of Region 9 on gross dissatisfaction with the imposition of Electricity Tariffs Increase

PETITION

Whereas Lethem, Culvert City, Tabatinga, St. Ignatius and MocoMoco are communities in the Administrative Region Upper Takatu/Upper Essequibo;

And, Whereas Lethem, Culvert City and Tabatinga are made up mostly of citizens from coastal Guyana with growing Amerindian populations, while St. Ignatius and MocoMoco are purely Amerindian Communities;

And, Whereas the Amerindian Community of St. Ignatius is presently required to pay electricity for the distribution of potable water to its residents;

And, Whereas these communities were accustomed to receiving free electricity under the auspices of the Regional Democratic Council throughout the early years;

And, Whereas the payment for electricity was instituted in 1995 where residents were required to pay twelve hundred dollars per month for consumption of electricity;

And, Whereas, the Lethem Power Company Inc. (LMPCI) replaced the Regional Democratic Council, Region 9 as the service provider;

And, Whereas LMPCI has, over the years, instituted increases in the tariffs for electricity in consultation with the general population of Lethem and its environs;

And, Whereas, the residents were always respectful in accepting those increases despite their economic difficulties because of their participation in the consultation process;

And, Whereas over the years, the rates for residential, commercial and industrial customers were the same across the board despite citizens' protestations who thought that that was not in keeping with National and International best practices;

And, Whereas the last tariff was decided as follows: the first fifteen (15) Kw - free, the next thirty (30) Kw - \$45 per Kwh; any consumption above that - \$55 per Kwh;

And, Whereas these decisions were sanctioned by the Hon. Prime Minister of Guyana who informed residents that according to a recent study, it was discovered that the minimum electricity any household should use is forty-five (45) Kw;

And, Whereas during the first week of January 2014, residents received a letter from the LMPCI informing that the tariff will be increased to \$75 per Kwh with effect from 1st January, 2014;

And, Whereas this has represented a 54.6% increase over the original, sanctioned tariff of \$45 per Kwh even though there has not been any recent, dramatic increase in the cost of fuel or maintenance;

And, Whereas the residents and other Stake-holders were not consulted on this occasion;

And, Whereas the residents of Lethem and its environs have viewed this imposition as disrespectful, a departure from the norm and a scheme to have them pay for assumed, potential benefits before hand;

And, Whereas the Regional Chairman has admitted that he was assured by the Hon. Prime Minister of Guyana, that there will be no increases in tariffs without the normal consultation;

And, Whereas this imposition will put the residents of Lethem and its environs at an increased disadvantage in relation to other communities in Guyana who benefits from subsidized electricity, and who pay between \$55 and \$58 per Kwh.

AND YOUR PETITIONERS AS IN DUTY BOUND AND DO HUMBLY PRAY:

That the Lethem Power Company Inc. (LMPCI) rescind its decision in relation to the increase in Tariffs immediately;

That the LMPCI meet with residents of Lethem and its environs to determine what is affordable;

That the tariffs reflect the various categories of consumers' ability and capacity to pay;


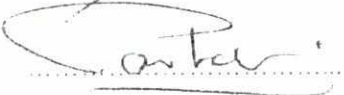
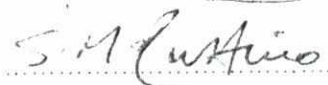
That the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) be arbitrators in this impasse;

That a suitable qualified professional be employed to head the Board which is a sensitive and technical one;

That this august body of the National Assembly instructs the Hon. Prime Minister to take all steps necessary to minimize waste and theft at the LMPCI, and to make the entity maximize on the resources appropriated to them

Wherefore your Petitioners humbly pray that the National Assembly will be pleased to accept and adopt their Petition.

Petitioners

 — SYDNEY ALLCOCK
 Carl A. Parker
 S.M. Curtius SANDRA M. RUIZINO

Date: - 2014-02-01