

Power News 5 May 2017

Why states, workers are yet to get 10% equity in Discos' Guardian p.7

The paper the Director General of the Bureau of Public Enterprise (BPE), Mr. Alex Okoh has offered reason for the inability of the Federal Government to allot the 10 per cent equity shareholding in the privatized power distribution companies to the workers. The BPE boss revealed that some state governments are yet to furnish the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), with details of their investment portfolios in the utility firms prior to their privatization. He made this disclosure at the weekend when two industry unions, led by the General Secretary of the Nigerian Union of Electricity Employees (NUEE), Comrade Joe Ajaero, paid him a visit.

Mr. Okoh pointed out that it is only when NERC finishes the assignment that the BPE can allot to workers as well as state governments and whatever is left would now be reserved for Initial Public Offering (IPO), when the companies become profitable.

Power sector privatization should be reviewed – ActionAid Punch p.32

The paper disclosed that, ActionAid an International development organization working in Nigeria and 44 other countries, have called the federal government to review the privatization of Nigeria's power sector to enable the country make progress in the electricity industry. Speaking to journalist recently in Abuja, after the agency's 9th Annual General Meeting, the ActionAid's country director Mrs. Ojobo Atuluku, described the power sector privatization as an act of injustice to Nigerians by the Federal Government.

She added that the relevance of electricity to the growth of industry and sustenance and survival of the SMEs, the government can no longer abandon its responsibility of ensuring that the critical sector of power management works. Mrs. Atuluku advised the federal government to take a more progressive stand on power generation and management in the country.

Erratic power supply, bane of Africa economic growth-Dangote Tribune p. 11

The paper reported that the President/Chief Executive Dangote Group, Mr. Aliko Dangote has stressed the need for stable electricity supply to drive business and economic growth in Africa. Dangote, at a forum organized by the World Bank Group and African Centre for Economic Transformation in Accra Ghana recently decried the situation in which generators had become the major source of electricity, as supply from the grid remained insufficient. He described electricity as one of the biggest challenges Africa needed to address with urgent attention, if governments wanted to see the continent grow. He said small businesses on the continent could never survive without stable power when the income generated was being used to purchase diesel to power and service generators.

Shoe firm accuses AEDC of extortion, vandalism Daily Trust p.27

The paper reported that a shoe industry in Kuje Area Council of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), has accused the Abuja Electricity Distribution Company (AEDC), of overbilling and vandalizing its 500KVA transformer. One of the company executive Mr. Suleiman Sulu Gambari explained that the company, NAFS Stenograph Nigeria Limited, had applied for a pre-paid meter but was not given one, and the company was forced to pay a bill of N170, 000 a month which was later raised to N207, 000 in May 2017. He also disclosed that a team from the AEDC disconnected the transformer two days before it was vandalized, after they had refused to pay up the N207, 000.

Responding to the allegations the Head of Public Relations and Media at AEDC, Malam Ahmed Shekarau said the company was saddened by the fact that the transformer was vandalized and promised that the issue of overbilling will be resolved by the company.