



SOCIALIST MOVEMENT OF GHANA (SMG)

ACCRA COLLECTIVE

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May 26, 2026

SMG OPPOSES ECG PRIVATISATION IN ANY FORM: STANDS WITH ORGANISED LABOUR

The Accra Collective of the Socialist Movement of Ghana (SMG) unreservedly supports the resistance of the Trades Union Congress (TUC) against any privatisation whether full or partial of the Electricity Company of Ghana.

Ghana has exited the International Monetary Fund's Extended Credit Facility (ECF) into a Policy Coordination Instrument (PCI) arrangement. The PCI is non-financial, but it is not without teeth. The IMF continues to impose what it formally calls **structural benchmarks** specific, time-bound policy commitments with compliance consequences. Among them include private sector participation in ECG.

The SMG notes the government's assurance that this is not a "wholesale privatisation," but merely "private participation." However, history counsels skepticism. In March 2019, the Akufo-Addo government handed ECG's operations to Power Distribution Services (PDS) under precisely this framing as concession, not privatisation. By August 2019, the concession had collapsed. PDS could not produce valid insurance documentation. The deal was voided and Ghanaians bore the cost. What they called "private sector management" in 2019 is now called "private participation" in 2026. The branding changes, however the consequences do not.

Whether private capital takes ownership or takes management, the outcomes for the working class are structurally identical: tariff increases to guarantee investor returns; retrenchment and casualisation of ECG workers; service deterioration in low-revenue communities that private operators find unprofitable to maintain; and the transfer of democratic accountability over a strategic public utility from the Ghanaian people to a shareholders' meeting. This is not speculation, it is the documented record of every comparable arrangement on this continent. Nigeria privatised its Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) in 2013. Over a decade later, Nigerians lead the continent in electricity poverty. South Africa opened Eskom to private participation and produced the worst load-shedding crisis in its history. Tanzania's World Bank-backed private management contract for TANESCO failed and was abandoned.

The pattern is familiar. The logic is the logic of capital: private utilities exist to generate returns, not to serve people.

THE SMG MAKES THE FOLLOWING DEMANDS:

1. The immediate abandonment of all plans regardless of framing to transfer operational control, management authority, or revenue streams of ECG to private capital.
2. Full public disclosure of all IMF structural benchmarks relating to ECG under both the ECF programme and the current PCI arrangement, including exact conditionality, timelines, and penalties for non-compliance.

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3. A full parliamentary review of the 2019 PDS concession failure, with accountability for those responsible and a binding legislative requirement that no future utility concession or management contract may proceed without full legislative approval and public consultation.
4. The Government of Ghana should reject, any structural benchmark requiring the marketisation of essential public utilities, and to assert its sovereign right to determine energy policy in the interest of working people.
5. Immediate employment security guarantee and wage review for ECG workers, whose collective bargaining rights must not be traded away in any restructuring arrangement.

ECG was built by the taxes and labour of the Ghanaian people. It belongs to the people. SMG expresses its full solidarity with organised labour's campaign against its surrender to private capital and calls on all progressive and working-class organisations in Ghana to join this resistance.

Blaise Tulo,
Convener