



## **CUTS Policy Roundtable Series: World Consumer Rights Day**

### ***Second Policy Roundtable***

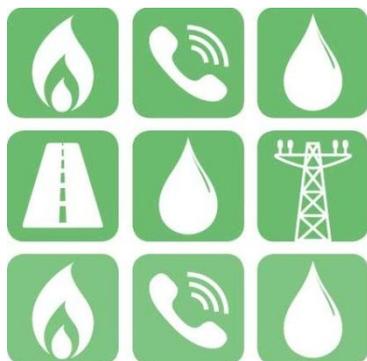
**THEME: Consumer Welfare through Effective Regulatory Actions**

**Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2014**

**1400-1600 Hours**

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At the end of the Cold War most countries, both emerging and developing countries worldwide, moved from a more command economy to a free market economy. This movement resulted in private sectors coming into the production of goods and services. It was the transition from one monopoly to another form of monopoly.



Sectoral reforms resulted in the formation of publicly funded regulatory agencies, tasked with regulating the practice of trade and services in the economy. In 1997, as a result of public agitation against the Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG), in determining its own tariffs to consumers, the Public Utility Regulatory Commission (PURC), Act 538 of 1997 was adopted, amongst others, to set tariffs for consumers.

Over the years, many regulatory agencies have been established by the authority of Parliament. Some of these agencies include: the National Petroleum Authority (NPA), National Communication Authority (NCA), Food and Drug Authority (FDA), and the National Pension Regulatory Authority (NPRA). The mandate of these regulators in their respective industries is to set industry standards, ensure that consumers are protected, as well as, promote competition in these industries.

We can all attest to the importance of having an effective regime for regulatory institutions in the country. As we are all aware, a nation with fragile regulatory institutions puts its consumers at a disadvantage and also results in an inefficient market. In a free market, it is in the interest of a producer to maximize profit whilst that of the consumers is to maximize utility. Most of the time, however, consumers are



Our panel will consist of representatives from academic, government, development agencies, business associates and regulatory institutions. From the government sector, we have a representative from the Ministry of Trade. From our regulatory institutions, we have representatives from PURC, NCA, FDA, GCAA, NPA, NPRA and DVLA.

The discussions would be based on the following points:

- How well does the various regulatory instruments in the (above-mentioned) key sectors provide scope for consumer/citizen's engagement?
- What has been the experience of consumers and of regulators in terms of the effectiveness of the present arrangement?
- What are some of the key challenges that need to be and can be addressed to achieve a more effective regime?
- What actions can be taken by CUTS in partnership with the regulatory agencies?

The discussion will be chaired by Professor Samuel Kofi Date-Bah, (Retired Justice of the Supreme Court of Ghana and Chairman of CUTS Accra Board).

**Date:** Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2014

**Time:** 2pm-4pm. (Arrival and registration: 1.45pm)

**Venue:** CUTS Ghana Office

30 Oroko Avenue- Near ATTC and Central View Hotel  
Kokomlemle-Accra.

For more enquires regarding this event, please email [apa@cuts.org](mailto:apa@cuts.org) or [accra@cuts.org](mailto:accra@cuts.org) or call 024-392-0926 or 030-224-5652.

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