

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **EWURA CONSUMER CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL (EWURA CCC) STAKEHOLDERS MEETING**

5 February 2007, Dar-es-Salaam

EWURA Consumer Consultative Council (EWURA CCC) is a Council established under Article 30 of the EWURA Act of 2001.

The objectives of EWURA CCC are to:

- Represent the interest of consumers by making submissions to, providing views and information to and consulting with the EWURA, Ministries and sector Ministers;
- Receive and disseminate information and views on matters of interest to consumers of regulated goods and services;
- Establish regional and sector consumer committees and consult with them;
- Consult with industry, the Government and other consumer groups on matters of interest to consumers of regulated goods and services; and
- Establish local and sector consumer committees and consult with them.

EWURA CCC is intending to convene regular stakeholders meetings with the following objectives (i) to introduce the Council to the consumers of regulated services (ii) to inform the consumers on the role of the Council (iii) to inform the consumers on their role in ensuring their concerns are heard (iv) to collect their views on appropriate procedure and strategy to collect the Consumers' concerns (v) to collect their views on the preparation for eventual take over the functions and operations of the Council at the end of

three years after establishment of the Council as provided by the Act.

This is the first meeting of this kind. It has brought together senior representatives of more than 30 companies within Dar es Salaam and Morogoro. However, the purpose of this meeting is not only targeting these companies but rather to reach out to all Consumers through mass media, with the purpose of informing the Consumers that EWURA CCC is their mouth piece on matters such as tariff review, product/service quality, service provision to the poor and environment conservation matters.

EWURA CCC has so far participated, on behalf of the Consumers, in the review process of tariffs for DAWASCO, Arusha Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (AUWSA) and TANESCO as provided for in the EWURA Act. The procedure of tariff review includes public hearing during which the general public is invited to give opinion on the reasonableness of the proposed tariff increase. Consumers of the EWURA regulated services have opportunity to participate in such reviews through EWURA CCC and also to participate directly in the public hearing. The Consumers may also write directly to EWURA during the review period. However, the advantage of raising their concerns through the EWURA CCC is that the Council has requisite expertise of the regulated sectors and therefore can organize consumers' concerns and opinions in a more focused and coherent manner. Besides EWURA CCC draws its powers from the Act to speak on behalf of all consumers.

During this meeting three papers will be presented. The titles of the papers are (i) Establishment and Functions of EWURA in improving availability and Quality of services regulated by EWURA (ii) Energy Audit and Power Factor as Tool for Minimising Power Consumption in Industries and (iii) Introduction to EWURA CCC.