

“The power of a nation”



MEDIA RELEASE

24 May 2014

EPC explains 50 sene charge for \$20 vend and below

The Electric Power Corporation wishes to clarify the issue of 50 sene service fee charged by the National Bank of Samoa for \$20 vend and below for prepayment meters.

EPC and NBS have a contract in place for Prepayment Meters Top Up Services. In that contract NBS reserves the right to amend the customer service fee upon 7 days' notice to Customers. NBS also notified the public through media channels prior to the fee being applied. There is nothing illegal about this service fee as far as the contract between EPC and NBS is concerned.

The Regulator instructed EPC to stop this service fee as this is without the approval of the Regulator under the Electricity ACT 2010. EPC and NBS put an immediate stop to this although EPC and NBS believe this is legal while sorting out their differences with the Regulator in the interpretation of the law.

This 50 sene Service Charge was not part of the tariff review that the Regulator has just approved in March 2014 and implemented on 01 May 2014. EPC interprets Service Fee similar to New Connection Fee, Disconnection and Reconnection Fee, etc which is different from Electricity Tariff in which Regulator's approval is required.

Electricity ACT 2010 and the establishment of the Office of the Regulator are new developments in the deregulations of the Electricity Sector and we are now experiencing some issues with the interpretation of the law which is always expected.

The subject matter is now under discussions between EPC and the Office of the Regulator.

EPC apologises to the public for any inconvenience that this may have caused.

END OF RELEASE

Electric Power Corporation

Level 5 Tui Atua Tupua
Tamasese Efi Building
Sogi, Samoa

PO BOX 2011

Apia
Samoa

Ph: 65 400

www.epc.ws