

In the Friday Jan 13 edition of the Barbados Today news edition {pg. 7) , the Director of the FTC sought to 'clarify' the impression given by an article earlier in the week that the new FIT rates applied only to new applicants from 1 January 2023.

While the clarification did not specifically reference a press release submitted by the **Barbados Association of Professional Engineers (BAPE)**, the inference is that that article 'suggested' that the increases were across the board.

A simple reading of the BAPE press release will indicate that no such reference exists. Indeed, the very issue being challenged in the article by BAPE, for those with eyes to see, is that the differential rates for the identical energy being produce to the electricity grid represents a key characteristic of a Ponzi scheme.

New PV suppliers will be paid less for producing the very same energy into the electricity grid and therefore, along with ordinary customers, will be subsidizing the higher rates being paid to those existing early movers.

In fact, the BAPE release specifically states that “

Unfortunately, the Barbados energy situation has now reached the stage where, while those early Renewable Energy (RE) investors will continue to make great profits, everyone else will now be required to subsidize these 'profits' through excessive electricity rates, reduced FIT rates, and by the even bigger price of reduced energy reliability, and its impact on national productivity.

It surely must be intellectually challenging to interpret this statement to be suggesting an 'across the board situation'.

However, since the FTC has chosen to bring this clarification to the table, perhaps they may also wish to take the time to clarify section 13 (1) of the **Utilities Regulation Act**, which is the Law that guides and directs the regulation of the local Electric Utility Service.

This section states that ;

13. (1) No service provider shall supply or furnish to any person any utility service at rates which are unduly preferential or unduly discriminatory.

(2) A service provider shall not

- *(a) in respect of a rate or a utility service, subject any person or locality, or a particular description of traffic, to any undue prejudice or undue disadvantage; or*
- *(b) extend to any person any agreement, rule, facility or privilege unless that agreement, rule, facility or privilege is regularly and uniformly extended to all persons under substantially similar circumstances and under conditions of service of the same description.*

Some clarification then on how the service provider (BLPC) is now able to supply discriminatory rates to the same class of of their IPP customers, given this apparently very specific regulation against such discrimination, would be very welcomed by BAPE, the public in general, and particularly so by prospective new investors.

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