

**PRESS
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ERERA Regulatory Council Visits ECOWAS Court of Justice, Parliament in Abuja

ERERA's Regulatory Council led by its Chairman, Professor Honoré Bogler, paid working visits to the ECOWAS Community Court of Justice and the ECOWAS Parliament on Thursday, 18th May 2017 in Abuja.

At separate meetings with the leadership of the two regional institutions, the Regulatory Council Members - including Dr. Haliru Dikko (Economist) and Mr. Aly Mar Ndiaye (Engineer), briefed their hosts on the creation of ERERA, its objectives and core mandate of regulating cross-border trade in electricity, as well as the work done so far in readiness for the launch of the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Market, which will be done in phases.

Current bilateral contracts between ECOWAS Member States will be concluded during the first phase, which will be launched before the end of 2017.

The second phase, which would allow operators full access to the power market, will be launched in 2019-2020 when the West African Power (WAPP) would have completed on-going infrastructural projects for the market.

Professor Honoré Bogler explained that the main preoccupation of the Regulatory Council was to ensure the harmonious development of the Regional Electricity Market, have an investment plan which would impact on the tariff system as well as ensure fair competition in the electricity market.

At an interactive session at the ECOWAS Community Court of Justice, the Regulatory Council addressed key issues relating to the operations of the regional power market and the expected benefits to Member States and citizens of the Community, ERERA's relations with the WAPP, the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) and other stakeholders, as well as the role of the Community Court as a strategic ERERA partner.

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In its response, the Community Court of Justice led by its President, Justice Jérôme Traoré, noted the role of the Court in ERERA's affairs, and the interest which the ECOWAS authorities have in ERERA, and assured ERERA of its readiness to play its role actively and help ensure the success of the institution as a major player in ensuring affordable and sustainable electricity for the people of West Africa.

At the ECOWAS Parliament, members of the Regulatory Council expressed their readiness to strengthen their collaboration with the Parliament in the discharge of its mandate.

Responding, the Speaker of the Parliament, Mr. Moustapha Cisse Lo, stated that the electricity sector, in particular the regulatory authority, was critical to sustainable development. He therefore pledged the "strong support" of the Parliament to ERERA.

He stated that the Parliament would ensure that issues relating to ERERA would be included in its agenda and addressed satisfactorily.

In attendance at the meetings were the Secretary General of the ECOWAS Parliament, Dr. Nelson Magbagbeola, the judges of the ECOWAS Community Court of Justice, including its immediate past President, Justice Maria do Céu Silva Monteiro, the Chief Registrar of the Court, Mr. Tony Maidoh, as well as judges of the Court of the West African Economic and Monetary Union of West Africa (WAEMU), who were also on a working visit to the ECOWAS Community Court of Justice.