

**PRESS
RELEASE**



**COMMUNIQUE
DE PRESSE**

No.008 – 22nd October 2015 – Accra, Ghana

ERERA, ECOWAS COURT OF JUSTICE TO SYNERGIZE ON CROSS-BORDER ELECTRICITY EXCHANGES

The Acting Chairperson of the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERERA), Mrs. Ifeyinwa Ikeonu, has stated that the ECOWAS Community Court of Justice has a “big role to play in the regional electricity trading arrangement in order to promote confidence in the process and its functioning”.

Mrs. Ikeonu, who led a three-member ERERA delegation, was speaking during a courtesy visit to the Court on Tuesday, 20th October 2015.

She explained that the visit was to sensitize the Court on its dual role as an appellate institution for disputes relating to energy trading in the region and its responsibility for administering the oath of office on members of ERERA's Regulatory Council.

She told the judges of the Court that ERERA's core functions include the development of a framework for electricity trading, the development of market rules and a quasi-judicial function of managing disputes arising from cross-border power trading.

She also explained that ERERA has an additional responsibility of creating a conducive business environment to attract investors to the energy sector in West Africa.

She informed the judges that the first phase of the region's electricity market would be launched next year, adding that ERERA has adopted its regional electricity Market Rules and WAPP (West Africa Power Pool) Operations Manual that would guide market participants.

According to her, ERERA now has in place a tariff methodology which will determine the cost of wheeling electricity across borders.

In her response, the President of the Community Court of Justice, Honourable Justice Maria Do Ceu Silva Monteiro, pledged to work with ERERA to foster an environment in the region that would facilitate cross-border trade in electricity based on the relevant regional laws and best practices.

**Published by: Department of Communication, ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority
Publié par: Le Département de la Communication, Autorité de Régulation Régionale du Secteur de
l'Électricité de la CEDEAO**

**Takyi Plaza – First Floor, Plot 40 Spintex Road, PMB 76 Ministries Post Office, Accra, Ghana
Tel: (233) 0302 817 049 Fax: (233) 0302 817 050 E-mail: info@erera.arrec.org**

'Energy is a critical tool for stimulating development but unfortunately this is lacking in the region,' she stated.

Justice Silver Monteiro said the visit had enabled judges of the Court to gain a better understanding of the operations of ERERA.

She pledged the Court's commitment to the collaboration between the two institutions and assured the delegation that the Court would faithfully discharge its appellate jurisdiction in disputes involving parties to the power trading arrangements based on the relevant ECOWAS instruments, and in line with the Court's determination to promote the dispensation of, and access to justice.