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## **Professor Bogler Launches Network of Communication Specialists for ERERA**

The Chairman of ERERA, Professor Honoré Bogler, has launched a network for communication experts serving in national electricity regulatory bodies in ECOWAS Member States to help the institution in its information management across West Africa.

Tagged 'ERERA Communication Specialists Network', the platform which draws on the strength of practitioners from the various regulatory bodies, will serve as a bridge between ERERA and Community citizens in Member States.

In addition, the network will serve as a platform for the exchange of ideas and the promotion of issues of common interests for its members.

Moreover, members will agree on strategies to enhance the visibility of ERERA's activities and performances in their respective countries, among other functions.

Addressing participants at a two-day regional workshop for communication experts which opened in Tutu Akwapen in the Eastern Region of Ghana on 19th March 2019, Professor Bogler, stated that electricity regulation was relatively new in Africa and needed to be explained to citizens.

According to him, that was one of the reasons which informed the establishment of the network of communicators whose actions would contribute to better information sharing among regulators and which will also promote regulatory activities in the region.

He said there was the need to pool resources as well as coordinate the efforts of the various regulatory bodies in the region to help regulators to be more efficient and become more visible in the discharge of their duties.

Professor Bogler also called for “strong regulators” at the national level, considering the stiff resistance some regulators face in some countries, especially in regard to the setting of electricity tariffs.

Participants were treated to presentations by EREDA Regulatory Council Members, Mr. Aly Mar Ndiaye (Engineer) and Dr. Haliru Dikko (Economist) as well as its Legal Expert, Mr. Oumar Bangoura, on various issues relating to EREDA’s mandate, functions, responsibilities and activities.

The workshop ended with a call for the setting up of dedicated structures for communication and the recruitment of personnel for efficient service delivery, for those bodies that are yet to do so.

Participants also stressed the need for equipping of, and assistance to, regulatory bodies, especially in the development of a communication plan for those who do not yet have one.

Among others, they further advocated for capacity building on electricity regulation for members of the network so as to deepen their knowledge of the sector and enhance their efficiency.