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## **ERERA, Nigeria's Electricity Regulator Hold Talks in Abuja**

The Chairman of the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERERA), Professor Honoré Bogler, led a four-member delegation to the headquarters of the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) on 31<sup>st</sup> June 2019 in Abuja to exchange views on the development of the Regional Electricity Market and other areas of mutual interests.

ERERA's delegation was received by the Chairman of NERC, Professor James Momoh and other high-level officials, including the Commissioner in charge of Engineering Performance and Monitoring, Professor Frank Nwoye Okafor and the Consumer Affairs Commissioner, Dr. Moses Arigu.

Professor Bogler briefed the NERC Chairman of the successful launch of the electricity market in June 2018 in Cotonou, Benin Republic and the plans for the launch of the second phase of the market in 2020.

He also spoke of on-going activities including registration of market participants and finalization of documents critical to the launch of the second phase of the market. This includes documents on access to transmission capacity.

In addition, Professor Bogler told his hosts of ERERA's efforts to harmonize tariff principles in all Member States and the steps taken to ensure appropriate transmission tariffs in the region. He therefore sought NERC's cooperation on the provision of technical experts on these issues.

The ERERA Chairman spoke of the challenges encountered in the implementation of the 2013 ECOWAS Directive on the Organization of the Regional Electricity Market and measures now being taken to make the implementation of the Directive more effective. He disclosed that studies were being conducted on accounting separation, as well as access to national and regional grids.

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l'Électricité de la CEDEAO  
Energy Commission Building, Ghana Airways Avenue, Airport Residential Area,  
PMB 76 Ministries Post Office, Accra, Ghana  
Tel: (233) 0302 817 049 Fax: (233) 0302 817 050 E-mail: [info@erera.arrec.org](mailto:info@erera.arrec.org)**

The Directive provides for the gradual establishment of the ECOWAS regional power market through the harmonization of national electricity markets. It also provides for a regional market design and market phases, open access to the regional transmission network and access by eligible customers.

Professor Bogler also specifically requested NERC to host the 7th edition of ERERA's Regulatory Forum, a special event which brings together representatives of the Ministries in charge of Energy and Finance, national electricity regulatory authorities, international regulatory organizations, utility companies, parliamentarians, and researchers to share ideas and discuss issues related to best practices in the regulation of cross-border electricity exchanges, as well as the development of the regional electricity market in ECOWAS.

The ERERA Chairman was accompanied by Regulatory Council Members Mr. Aly Mar Ndiaye, Engineer; Dr. Haliru Dikko, Economist; and Mr. Uwem Thompson, Communication Officer.