

**PRESS  
RELEASE**



**COMMUNIQUE  
DE PRESSE**

No. 008: 14<sup>th</sup> July 2014 – Accra, Ghana

## **ECOWAS ENERGY INSTITUTIONS HOLD COORDINATION MEETING IN ACCRA**

ECOWAS specialized institutions and agencies responsible for energy matters met on Saturday, 12th July 2014 in Accra to further deepen their cooperation with a view to improving delivery on their mandate towards ensuring energy supply and security in West Africa.

The meeting was convened at the instance of the ECOWAS Commissioner for Energy and Mines, Dr. Morlaye Bangoura, who led a delegation, including the Director of Energy at the Commission, Mr. Bayaornibe Dabire, to the meeting.

The institutions and agencies include the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERERA) led by its Chairman, El Hadj Ibrahima Thiam, the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) represented by its Executive Director, Mr. Mahama Kappiah and the West Africa Power Pool (WAPP) headed by its Secretary General, Mr. Amadou Diallo.

Participants agreed on better communication and synergy among the institutions as a means of ensuring better governance in the energy sector.

They specifically addressed the tasks assigned to the energy institutions and agencies by ECOWAS leadership and the status of implementation of such directives. This includes special priority programmes and emergency programmes in certain identified zones in some Member States in order to fast track the provision of energy services in those areas, and thus improve the lives of the citizens.

Participants also reviewed the status of preparedness for a planned ministers of energy meeting on a soon-to-be-announced date.

At the opening, ERERA Chairman, Ibrahima Thiam, called for more synergy among the institutions and 'solidarity in our efforts to achieve our objectives'.

He also requested more coordination meetings between the specialized energy agencies, noting that none can fulfill its mandate without the support of the others.

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**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**

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In his statement, Commissioner Morlaye Bangoura lamented the vast untapped resources in a region desperately in need of energy services, and urged all stakeholder institutions to continue working arduously to achieving the tasks before them.

He also called for better governance in the energy sector. According to him, 'better governance should be translated into visible evidence on ground'.

The Accra coordination meeting was the first since Commissioner Bangoura assumed duties in February 2014. The next meeting will be held in Praia, Cape Verde in November this year.