

**PRESS
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ERERA, ECOWAS PARLIAMENT TO PARTNER ON IMPROVED LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORKS FOR CROSS-BORDER ELECTRICITY TRADE

The ECOWAS Parliament has pledged to collaborate with ERERA to ensure that the legislative frameworks of ECOWAS Member States are aligned to promote the ECOWAS vision of an efficient and integrated power pool to solve the energy deficiency challenge in the region.

During a courtesy call to the ECOWAS Parliament on 22nd October 2015, the Acting Chairperson of ERERA, Mrs. Ifey Ikeonu, briefed the Speaker of the ECOWAS Parliament, Senator Ike Ekweremadu, on current developments with regards to ERERA's mandate of ensuring the development of the ECOWAS regional electricity market by putting in place the enabling legal and regulatory framework that will attract private sector investment into the power sector, while also improving the services of government owned utilities.

According to her, the success of this mandate will entail a basic level of harmonization of the legislative framework of Member States as specified in the ECOWAS Council of Ministers' Directive on the Organization of the Regional Electricity Market signed in June 2013.

While commending ERERA for the steps it has so far taken, Senator Ekweremadu stressed that electricity is an essential element in the development of the region. He added that universal access to electricity is a right which parliamentarians in the ECOWAS region are committed to ensuring that every citizen enjoys in no future time.

He noted the challenges ERERA will face in establishing a harmonized regulatory framework for cross-border electricity trading and promised that the ECOWAS Parliament will do what is necessary to facilitate the enabling legislative environment to assist ERERA in fulfilling its mandate.

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**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**