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ACTING CHAIRPERSON APPOINTED FOR ERERA

A member of the Regulatory Council of the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERERA), Mrs. Ifeyinwa Ikeonu, has been appointed as the Acting Chairperson of the institution.

Her appointment, which became effective 1st July 2015, follows the end of tenure of El Hadj Ibrahima Thiam, ERERA's pioneer chairman.

At a brief meeting with staff on Tuesday, 7th July 2015 at the institution's headquarters in Accra, Ghana, Mrs. Ikeonu commended the outgoing Chairman and enjoined staff to put in their best always and help the institution fulfil its mandate. She stressed that it was important to work with integrity and professionalism in order to leave a worthwhile legacy.

She stated that members of the ERERA Regulatory Council would continue to work hard towards the realization of ERERA's objectives and the implementation of ongoing activities towards the commencement of the regional electricity market. She then called for the continued cooperation of all staff to support the Council.

Mrs. Ikeonu also spoke on some of the achievements of the outgoing chairman, and noted that 'it is not easy birthing an institution, especially in an environments such as ours'.

Speaking in a similar vein, ERERA's Council Member, Mr. Alagi Gaye, urged staff to continue to embrace team spirit 'to do what we have been mandated to do', and to uphold the outgoing chairman in their prayers.

In his response, El Hadj Thiam recalled that his mission to ERERA was 'to lay the foundations' on which others would build. He spoke on some of the challenges associated with building a new institution as well as developing a regional electricity market, a core mandate for ERERA. Some of these included recruitment of professional staff, funding and asserting ERERA's autonomy to ensure its credibility.

El Hadj Thiam expressed gratitude to all the national regulators and operators, especially the electricity regulatory authorities of The Gambia, Nigeria and Senegal as well as the French Development Agency, AFD, for providing early support to ERERA.

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Energy Commission Building, Ghana Airways Avenue, Airport Residential Area, Accra
P.M.B. 76, Ministries Post Office, Accra, Ghana
Tel: (233) 0302 817 049 Fax: (233) 0302 817 050 E-mail: info@erera.arrec.org**

The outgoing chairman also tasked ERERA officials to maintain the institution's rules of transparency and accountability, and 'to resist pressure and do what is right'.