

**PRESS
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ECOWAS President Tasks ERERA on a Robust Payment System for the Regional Electricity Market

The President of the ECOWAS Commission, Mr. Jean-Claude Kassi Brou, has called on ERERA to ensure a responsive payments system that will help active participation in the Regional Electricity Market.

Mr. Kassi Brou made the call on Thursday, 21st March 2019 when he paid a visit to the ERERA offices in Accra. He was received by the Chairman of ERERA, Professor Honoré Bogler, and ERERA Regulatory Council Members, Dr. Haliru Dikko (Economist) and Mr. Aly Mar Ndiaye (Engineer).

The President of the ECOWAS Commission held talks with the ERERA Regulatory Council on a variety of issues of mutual interest, including the importance of the electricity market and related infrastructural development, ERERA's independence as a regulatory authority, its permanent headquarters, as well as staff recruitment and welfare.

The Regulatory Council briefed the President on ERERA's activities relating to the development of the Regional Electricity Market, which was launched in June 2018 in Cotonou, Benin Republic, including the adoption of documents critical to the operation of the market.

Professor Bogler and his team reiterated the commitment of ERERA and the West African Power Pool (WAPP) to launch the second phase of the market in 2020. They also assured the president that efforts were being made to tackle issues relating to tariffs and the payment system for the market, including minimizing risks associated with non-payment of invoices.

On ERERA's independence, President Kassi Brou pledged his support for ERERA, noting that regulatory entities thrive on their independence.

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**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

As a former utility regulator himself, the president acknowledged the challenges faced by ERERA, especially as the first of its kind in Africa, and called on all stakeholders to assist the institution discharge its mandate before a watching world.