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## **We intend to Safeguard Interests of ECOWAS Citizens in Electricity Trade, Says ERERA Chairman**

The Chairman of ERERA, Professor Honoré Bogler, has reiterated his organization's commitment to fast-track cross-border trade in electricity to help address the power challenge in West Africa for the benefit of ECOWAS Community citizens.

Professor Bogler gave the assurance while addressing the media on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at the sidelines of the Eighty-second Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers being held at the ECOWAS Commission Headquarters in Abuja.

He said in partnership with the West African Power Pool (WAPP), ECOWAS Member States and other relevant stakeholders, ERERA will work tirelessly to ensure a sustainable tariff system for the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Market when the second phase starts in 2020.

Acknowledging the abundance of natural resources in the region, Professor Bogler said the key challenges facing the development of the power market include “funding and infrastructure to harness these resources in order to serve the needs of the consumers in Member States”.

He said ECOWAS specialized institutions are working with international development partners and Member states' electricity companies to improve infrastructure and electricity supply in the region, as huge investments are required.

Professor Bogler also assured that adequate mechanisms have been put in place to attract investors as a way to consider the interest of ordinary electricity consumers.

He stated that issues relating to tariffs would be among the top priority areas for the ERERA Regulatory Council.

“ERERA is to serve as the link between all the stakeholders, supervise the functioning of the market and arbitrate any disputes arising from the arrangements between the operators in the market”, said the ERERA Chairman.

According to him, “the aim is to have a power market, working with commercial rules that will be sustainable. We think that way, the people will have the best price of electricity because we will use the regional resources that are cheaper to feed our network”, adding that ERERA “will monitor and supervise all these to get the system running in an organized manner”.