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## **ERERA Chairman Says Role of Communicators Vital for Success of ECOWAS Regional Electricity Market**

The Chairman of ERERA, Professor Honoré Bogler, has described as vital the role of communicators to the overall success of the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Market, for which preparations are on top gear for the launch of the second, and competitive, phase of the market.

Professor Bogler was addressing journalists and communications experts from the National Regulatory Commissions of Member States who are also members of the ERERA Communication Specialists Network at a workshop which was held from 29<sup>th</sup> September to 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2021 in Akosombo, Ghana.

He stated that ERERA was collaborating strongly with the communicators in recognition of their role in enhancing the visibility of the development of the regional power market, especially as they serve as a link between the media and their various publics.

Similarly, the Resident Representative of the President of the ECOWAS Commission in Ghana, Ambassador Baba Gana Wakil, said well-informed communicators were a critical factor in the evolution of the electricity market which is being developed to tackle the power challenges in the ECOWAS region.

He said ECOWAS' engagement with the media was to help inform Community citizens of the regional power market so they can better appreciate the significance of the market and its attendant benefits to them.

The workshop on “Fundamentals of Regulation and Introduction of to the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Market” is part of ERERA's Capacity Building Programme relating to the development of the regional electricity market. It is designed to enhance the capacity of key stakeholders on the regulatory framework of the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Market and on the fundamentals of electricity regulation.

Participants were treated to presentations on the following areas: Regional electricity sector and roles of sector institutions of ECOWAS, roles and responsibilities of ERERA as a regional regulator, fundamentals of utility regulation, basics of economic and technical regulation of the electricity sector, effective Stakeholder consultation processes and strategy, as well as consumer satisfaction survey in the power sector.

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They were also taken through the Directive on the Organization of the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Market, introduction to the ECOWAS Market Rules and Phases of Market Development, the ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access, the ECOWAS Directive on Gender Assessments in Energy Projects, as well as given an overview of the ECOWAS Regional Information Management System (RIMS).

The workshop is part of the on-going Technical Assistance of the European Union (EU) to ERERA relating to the EU-funded programme on Improving the Governance of the Energy Sector in the ECOWAS region (AGOSE-AO).

A key component of the programme focuses on building the capacity of key stakeholders on the regulatory framework of the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Market.