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### **ERERA to Hold 9<sup>th</sup> Regulatory Forum in Accra**

The ninth Regional Electricity Regulatory Forum of the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERERA) will take place from July 19 to 20, 2024 in Accra, Ghana, with the theme, **"Electricity Trade Security in the ECOWAS Region: the Interplay between National Policies and Free Market Principles"**.

The Minister of Energy of Ghana, Mr. Herbert Krapa, will set the context of the theme in his keynote address on *"Geopolitical Dynamics and Energy Security: Implications for the West African Region"*, as he discusses the importance of electricity trade security in the ECOWAS region.

The Forum will feature presentations on free market principles in facilitating electricity trade, focusing on the relevance, benefits, and risks of implementing free market principles in West Africa, and the regulatory frameworks supporting free market principles.

This feature will also cover issues relating to ensuring the security of electricity supply in a liberalized electricity market, such as cross-border power trade and its impact on national security, as well as the role of regional cooperation in enhancing electricity supply security.

Presentations will also focus on the status of regional initiatives for developing electricity trade in ECOWAS, balancing national energy security with regional trade benefits, and technological Innovations and infrastructure development for enhanced energy security, among others.

The ninth edition of the Forum is expected to strengthen the role of key players, including national policymakers, market players, and ECOWAS institutions, in developing a regional framework for electricity trade that balances the need for the security of electricity supply of States with the principles of free market competition.

It is also expected to encourage cooperation among ECOWAS Member States to harmonize national policies and regulations related to electricity trading, as well as promote investment in cross-border electricity infrastructure to facilitate efficient trade and ensure supply security.

In addition, participants will deepen discussions on establishing mechanisms for the security of payments, dispute resolution, and enforcement of agreements related to electricity trade within the region.

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The 9<sup>th</sup> Forum will be preceded by a two-day meeting of ERERA's joint Consultative Committees of Regulators and Operators which will begin on July 22, 2024, in Accra.