

**OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM AND WELCOME REMARKS
DELIVERED BY DR. LAWRENCE D. SEKAJIPO
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
LIBERIA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
AT THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF
REGULATORY DATA BASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
FOR THE LIBERIA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
HELD AT THE EJS MINISTERIAL COMPLEX
ON MARCH 27, 2024**

- His Excellency Jeremiah Kpan Kounq, Sr., Vice President of the Republic of Liberia
- Mrs. Marie-Laure Akin-Olugbade, Vice President Regional Development, Integration and Business Delivery, African Development Bank
- Mr. Benedict Sorie Kanu, Country Representative, African Development Bank
- Other Development Partners
- Representatives of ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority
- The Honorable Minister of Mines and Energy
- The Honorable Minister of Finance and Development Planning
- The Chairman and Management of Liberia Electricity Corporation
- The Executive Director of Rural and Renewable Energy Agency
- Government officials
- Private sector Representatives
- Civil Society
- Other Regulated entities of the electricity sector
- Consumer groups
- Media institutions
- Distinguished guests
- Ladies and gentlemen

The Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission (“the Commission”) was created under the 2015 Electricity Law of Liberia as an autonomous regulator of the electricity supply industry. The Commission oversees the provision of electricity services with clearly defined mandates relative to licensing operators, approving tariffs, establishing, and monitoring compliance with technical codes and commercial operations of the licensees, including resolving service-related disputes. The 2015 Electricity Law also specifies the roles of the other key sector agencies in the implementation of power sector reforms, including the liberalization of the sector to attract private investment to increase and eventually ensure universal access to electricity.

Today, the Commission has again achieved another important milestone in the implementation of the 2015 Electricity Law of Liberia, evidenced by the development and deployment and official launch of its Regulatory Data Base Management System. This milestone has been achieved with the support of the African Development Bank and the Government of Liberia.

The Commission relies on data collected from licensed operators and the public in the discharge of its mandate. These include financial and accounting, technical, operational, and commercial data from utility service providers as well as handling consumer complaints and dispute settlements among consumers and utilities.

To increase efficiency and effectiveness of service to its diversified stakeholders including utility providers and their customers, which involves many levels of communication, LERC sought support from the African Development Bank to digitize its procedures and processes

through the establishment of a Regulatory Database Management System.

The Regulatory Data Base Management System ensures reliability, accuracy, and integrity of the Commission's work in the area of quality-of-service monitoring, data management and complaints management as part of the strategies to ensure that its regulatory objectives are met. The system provides a custom web and mobile solution that will enable data collection by authorized entities such as staff, licensees, statutory bodies and other partners for storage and analysis to ensure efficient and effective business processes and regulatory decision making.

As the Commission has embarked on the implementation of its Five-Year Strategic Plan (2023 – 2027), automating its internal processes using the Regulatory Data Base Management System enables the commission to improve operational efficiency, achieve higher productivity and reduce turnaround times in business processes to attain the targets set in the strategic Plan. The system, which contains web-based and mobile data collection capabilities such as data visualization, data collection tool and the generation of user-friendly ad hoc reports and insights is a significant boost to the energy sector of Liberia.

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, management, and staff of LERC, I like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to the African Development Bank for technical and financial support provided the Commission in the development of the Regulatory Data base Management System. As we roll out the system today, I am appealing to the Bank to continue its technical assistance and financial support to the Commission to undertake readiness assessment of our licensees (service providers) for

their full integrations with the Commission's Regulatory Data Base Management System for data exchange to facilitate and enhance performance monitoring and compliance to the terms and conditions of their licenses.

On this note, it is my honor and pleasure to welcome you all this official launch of the Regulatory Data Base Management System of the Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission

Thank you.