

LERC Managing Director's opening Statement at the Program Marking the Official Launch of:

1. Certification and Licensing of Electrical Professionals and Contractors Regulations.
 2. Electrical Wiring Regulations and Liberia Electrical Wiring Code
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- The Honorable Minister of Mines and Energy,
- The Honorable Deputy Minister for Economic Management, MFDP,
- The European Union Delegation to Liberia,
- The Honorable Representative of Ministry of Education, TVET Division,
- Electricity Service Providers, especially or licensees – LEC, TEC, and JEP,
- TVET institutions,
- Partners,
- End users of Electricity Services
- The Press
- Ladies & Gentlemen.

On behalf of the Chairman, Board of Commissioners, and management of the Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission (LERC), I am pleased to make this brief opening statements marking the official launch of ***Certification and Licensing of Electrical Professionals and Contractors Regulations, Electrical Wiring Regulations and Liberia Electrical Wiring Code.***

LERC achieves again an important milestone in the implementation of the 2015 Electricity Law of Liberia, evidenced by the development and approval of the above-mentioned regulatory instruments for which we have today gathered for this official Launching program. This milestone has been achieved with the support of the European Union, the Government of Liberia, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions, electricity services providers, and electricity sector partners.

The three regulatory instruments being launched are:

- ***The Certification and Licensing of Electrical Professionals and Contractors' Regulations*** elaborate the qualification criteria for electrical professionals and contractors for undertaking electrical work.

- ***The Electrical Wiring Regulations*** establish the requirements, procedures and practices for the enforcement of minimum standards for distribution of electrical energy in and around all types of structures including residential and commercial premises, public buildings, factories/industries, construction sites, farmhouses, booths, temporary installations and playgrounds; and ensure the safety of persons, livestock and property from hazards that arise from the use of electricity, including safety against electric shocks, burns and fire.
- ***Liberia Electrical Wiring Code*** providing the general technical guidelines for implementation of the Certification and Licensing of Electrical Professionals and Contractors' Regulations and the Electrical Wiring Regulations.

Following today's program, and immediately after the transitional period, no person shall undertake electrical work unless that person has been certified or licensed under these Regulations. We therefore count on the collective support of all electricity sector stakeholders as was exemplified during the technical review and validation workshops, to ensure compliance with these regulations.

As we move into implementation of these regulations the Commission will ensure the establishment of the interview panel consisting of representatives of relevant institutions or organizations as enshrined in the regulations. In consultation with the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Division of the Ministry of Education, LERC shall designate TVET institutions to conduct the written and practical examinations as part of the certification scheme. Therefore, the Commission intends to enter memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with the designated TVET institutions for testing and evaluation of candidates as part of the certification and licensing program.

If the electricity sector of Liberia must develop to heights that we all envision, then quality of service and standardization of processes cannot be overemphasized.

Finally, I like to extend our thanks and appreciation to the Government of Liberia, and stakeholders of the electricity sector for their continuous support. Special thanks go to the European Union for their long-term technical assistance to the LERC, which has resulted to an improved electricity regulatory environment in Liberia and the program today. We wish to assure you of a vibrant and sustainable electricity regulatory environment in Liberia.

Thank you.