

WELCOME REMARKS BY J. ALOYSIUS TARLUE, JR., CHAIRMAN, LIBERIA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION DELIVERED AT THE STAKEHOLDERS' WORKSHOP FOR THE VALIDATION OF REGULATORY INSTRUMENTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES, AT BELLA CASA HOTEL, 2ND SINKOR STREET, MONROVIA, OCTOBER 29, 2019.

(Protocols and salutation)

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am delighted to welcome you to this epochal workshop to validate a number of regulatory instruments and administrative procedures that have been drafted by Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission (LERC) for the regulation of the electricity sector of Liberia.

On behalf of my colleague Commissioners, I would like to first, express sincere gratitude to the Millennium Challenge Account-Liberia and the European Union (EU) that have supported the Liberia Regulatory Commission (LERC) since it became operational in September 2018.

The state of Liberia's electricity sector is well known. The Commission was created under the 2015 Electricity Law of Liberia that provides the framework for transforming the electricity sector of Liberia through a combination of a competitive electricity market; private capital and enlightened regulation. These are prerequisites for delivering adequate and reliable services at reasonable prices to uplift the socio-economic welfare of the people of Liberia.

Ladies and Gentlemen, LERC is committed to implementing a good regulatory climate that will bring about a rapid transformation of the under-performing electricity sector of Liberia through the regulatory mandates conferred on it under the 2015 Electricity Law of Liberia. The Commission will establish the right regulatory scheme that will provide for investor confidence while addressing consumer concerns.

This morning's event is a culmination of several months of sustained effort to start giving relevance to the provisions of the 2015 Electricity Law of Liberia. Following the establishment of the Board of Commissioners of LERC, we have worked assiduously with our skeletal professional staff and consultants to put together a

number of regulatory instruments and procedures that this workshop is intended to discuss and validate. These are:

1. Draft Electricity Licensing Regulations,
2. Draft Micro-Utility Licensing Regulations,
3. Draft Electricity Licensing Handbook,
4. Draft Administrative Procedure Regulations (External Procedures), and
5. LERC By-Laws (Internal Procedures).

We have also started the preparation of Electricity Tariff Regulations and Methodology which will also be subjected to stakeholder consultations when completed.

We further intend to initiate the preparation of the Long-Term System Plan for the Liberia Electricity Sector. This assignment will be performed together with our principal stakeholders particularly the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC), a major counterpart in this regulatory process. The System Plan will serve as the basis for an orderly approval of power sector projects by LERC as required by the 2015 Electricity Law of Liberia. Additionally, we will soon complete a Liberia Electricity Grid Code which will ensure the safe operation of the national electricity grid network.

Honourable Minister, we are fully aware of the enormity of the task and fully prepared to play our part in this process of transformation of the sector through transparent and effective regulation. We recognize that we cannot do this alone. We will require supportive Government policy, effective political direction as well as the buy-in of all the people of Liberia. Also, the continued assistance from our development partners remains critical to the success of the regulatory, electricity and other sectors of our national economy.

We need the support of the government of Liberia and particularly the Ministry of Mines and Energy in the specific area of implementing policies that would complete the unbundling of the electricity sector as envisaged under the 2015 Electricity Law. Without the full unbundling of the electricity supply industry, it will be difficult to achieve the sector goals.

Honourable Minister we are looking up to you to lead this effort of unbundling the electricity sector to pave the way for the achieving the vision expressed in the 2015 Electricity Law of Liberia.

Ladies and Gentlemen let me once again welcome you to this workshop and wish you fruitful deliberations.

THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING.