

**STATEMENT BY HONOURABLE JEREMAIH KPAN KOUNG,
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA AT THE
OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF REGULATORY DATABASE
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR THE LIBERIA ELECTRICITY
REGULATORY COMMISSION (LERC) MARCH 27TH, 2024**

**Mrs. Marie -Laure Akin Olugbade, the Vice President for
Regional Development, Integration and Business Delivery,
African Development Bank; Representatives of ECOWAS
Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority;**

**The Honourable Minister of Mines and Energy, Wilmot S.
Paye**

**Cllr. Emmanuel Tulay, Chairman of the Board of the Liberia
Electricity Corporation**

**Hon. Floyd Tomah, CEO Junge Energy Power
Government Officials**

Private sector representatives;

Members of the media;

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

We converge here today in recognition of the fact that the improvement in our energy sector remains the easiest pathway to attract the necessary investments, expansion of our private sector and the attainment of economic growth and development. Ten years ago, we provided electricity to only 13% of our population; a situation which suffocated our economy and affected our local businesses and industries.

Today, about 33% percent of households have access to electricity and more is being done to increase our capacity.

While we have made some progress in providing electricity to our people, we still fall short of the 52% which is the World Bank minimum standard for a population access to electricity. The challenges we face in this sector are serious and real; we, as a government, are prepared to confront these challenges and bring relief to our People!

As we officially launch the Regulatory Data Base Management System for the Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission, it is important to note that the electricity sector of Liberia was characterized by monopoly of supply of generation, transmission, and distribution services where government policymaking, regulatory and operational functions were not clearly defined. As a result, the national utility, private operators, and informal micro-utilities in Liberia were self-regulating with poor quality of service and high cost of electricity services.

To address the situation, the 2009 National Energy Policy of Liberia was promulgated, thus leading to the enactment of the 2015 Electricity Law of Liberia, which established the Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission (LERC) as an independent regulator of the electricity sector. The establishment of LERC was a major milestone by the Government of Liberia. This achievement by Government has added momentum to the ongoing reform of the electricity supply

industry to transform it into an electricity market to boost economic growth and development.

With the LERC's catalog of regulatory instruments and reporting requirements, including those from its key stakeholders, it is my understanding that the Commission desires to improve the effectiveness of reporting compliance and enforcement processes within the electricity sector, by leveraging on available information communication technologies (ICTs) to obtain data from the various licensees in their day-to-day operations, through automated and digitalized internal processes as well as performance tracking and management of regulated entities.

One of the key implementation strategies of our Government's ARREST development agenda is capacity building and institutional strengthening, which is the channel to develop the necessary infrastructure for effective and efficient government service deliveries. Therefore, this LERC Regulatory Data Base Management System, being launched today is a classic example of the Government of Liberia desire to build and strengthen the capacity of public institutions by deploying the necessary IT-based infrastructure to meet 21st century business processes and transactions.

We will continue to work with the LERC and its development partners to invest in building the capacity of Ministries, Agencies and Commissions (MACs) responsible for planning, resource mobilization, projects and program development and management. We must be aware that strengthening and building the capacity of public institutions must also include placing competent people to lead the country's development efforts by ensuring that public institutions must be staffed with right the right people with the knowledge and skills for service delivery.

We applaud the African Development Bank for supporting the Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission in achieving this major milestone in the history of our energy sector.

It is our hope that the LERC Regulatory Data Base Management System will not only provide the Commission with the capability to digitally interface with its licensees or service providers and their consumers but will also link Liberia's national electricity regulatory regime with our sub-regional electricity market actors such as the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority and the West African Power Pool, as the ECOWAS work towards a common electricity market for the sub-region.

By directive of the President of Liberia, His Excellency Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr. and on behalf of the Vice President, Honorable Jeremiah Kpan Koun, the Government and the People of the Republic of Liberia, I hereby officially launch the Regulatory Data Base Management System for the Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission.

I thank you!