



**LESOTHO ELECTRICITY AND WATER AUTHORITY**

### **LEWA Hosts 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Regional Regulators Association of Southern Africa (RERA) 07-11 November, 2016**

In terms of the Lesotho Electricity and Water Authority (Authority)'s Strategy Objective of promoting Stakeholder Awareness, Empowerment and Protection, the Authority as a member of various international and regional bodies has to engage in pertinent activities to share knowledge on regulatory best practices and capacitate staff.

LEWA is a member the Regional Electricity Regulators' Association of Southern Africa (RERA). RERA was formed following a decision by Ministers of Energy of the Southern Africa African Development Community (SADC) at their meeting in Maseru in 2002. RERA Secretariat is in Windhoek, Namibia. Amongst other, the major objectives of RERA are as follows:

- "Capacity building, information sharing and experience sharing (among regulators);
- Regulatory co-operation on issues affecting the economic efficiency of regional electricity trade; and
- Harmonizing regulatory frameworks that will enhance the viability of the regional electricity industry and regional electricity trade, and facilitate regional Electricity Sector Industry (ESI) systems integration.

Hence in the execution of its mandate, RERA held the 2015 Energy Conference and Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Ezulwini, Swaziland, from November 25-27, 2015. The key note message emanating out of the Conference was that regulators in the SADC region must play a role in attracting investment in the energy sectors to improve the socio-

economic development of the region. At the end of this event RERA members resolved that LEWA should host the 2016 Conference and AGM.

The Authority therefore informs its stakeholders that in line with this decision LEWA is to host the 13<sup>th</sup> RERA Annual Conference from 07 - 11 November, 2016. The Conference is scheduled take place at Avani Lesotho hotel Maseru. The event is to be preceded by the workshop on Women and Energy, Renewable Energy for Micro/Mini Grids and Capacity Building in Energy Regulation on 08 November, 2016.

The theme of the 2016 conference is “Providing universal access and sustainable development through renewable energy: Challenges and opportunities for the SADC region”.

The objectives of the annual RERA Conference are to provide a forum for regulators, industry leaders, development partners, policy makers, power utilities, investors, financiers and other stakeholders in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region and other parts of the world to network and exchange information on pertinent electricity supply industry issues.

Current RERA members are National Electricity Council (CNELEC, Mozambique), Swaziland Energy Regulatory Authority (SERA, Swaziland) Institute for Electricity Sector Regulation (IRSE, Angola) Electricity Control Board (ECB, Namibia) Malawi Energy Regulatory Authority (MERA, Malawi), Energy & Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA, Tanzania) Zimbabwe Energy Regulatory Authority (ZERA, Zimbabwe) National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA, RSA) , Energy Regulation Board (ERB, Zambia) and Lesotho Electricity and Water Authority (LEWA, Lesotho).