

Welcome Address to the WAPP Organizational Committee on the  
2<sup>nd</sup> WAPP General Assembly

By  
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It is indeed a pleasure for me to give the welcome address to the inaugural WAPP Organizational Committees meeting comprising of the Engineering & Operating Committee, Strategic Planning Committee and the Finance & Human Resources Committee.

Although PHCN has been hosting WAPP meetings for Zone A and WAPP Taskforce meetings, this is the first time we are hosting the WAPP General Assembly.

From program of event, I notice the whole week is dedicated to discussing issues and challenges of provision of electricity for the ECOWAS Region. I trust this meeting will proffer solutions and take far reaching decisions that will improve of electricity supply which will in turn impact on economy development of the region.

In addition to your planned deliberations I implore this group of diverse experts to look at skill challenges in the sector especially application of new technologies like pre-payment meters. The skill-needs require creation of new job functions in the IT and addressing skill gaps for field staff. Addressing the skill gaps would impart on improvement of revenue and reduction commercial losses.

Another critical challenge which is common to the electricity business in West Africa is the issue of appropriate electricity tariff. I would suggest that you share knowledge of your different experiences on this important issue

If we get these two issues right that is, closing the skill gaps and appropriate tariff, the electricity market in region would easily attract the private investors.

I would like to commend the WAPP Secretariat for its dynamic activities in the past year especially for quick establishment of the WAPP office in Cotonou and for organizing the second WAPP General Assembly in Abuja.

I wish the Organizational Committees fruitful deliberations

You are welcomed

Thank You